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GENEVA MEDIUM-RANGE NUCLEAR WEAPONS GROUP MEETS

LD281247 Moscow TASS in English 1236 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Geneva March 28 TASS -- A session of the group on nuclear intermediate-range armaments was held here today within the framework of the Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space weapons.

PRAVDA CITES U.S. INTERNAL CRITICISM OF SDI

PM281036 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Mar 85 First Edition p 3

[TASS report under the general heading "Space Ambitions"]

[Text] New York, 25 Mar -- The United States is pushing ahead with the implementation of the dangerous plans for the militarization of space. At Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, installation work is nearing completion on a new launch complex intended for launching space shuttles, which are allotted an important role in the implementation of Reagan's "star wars" program. According to a NEW YORK TIMES report, this complex, whose construction has cost almost $3 million, will annually launch up to 10 spaceships on Pentagon missions. Furthermore, the newspaper points out, the USAF is building a joint center for space operations in Colorado. The creation of these projects, the NEW YORK TIMES notes, "testifies to the growing militarization of the U.S. space program."

The Reagan administration must renounce the dangerous "star wars" plans and adopt a constructive stance at the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space arms in Geneva. This demand is being urgently made to the White House by eminent scientists and representatives of public organizations. President Reagan's statements on the "need" for a "star wars" program are a downright lie, journalist L. (Keygan), national coordinator of the public organization "Mobilization to Save Mankind," stated. The implementation of these plans, she noted, would whip up the arms race and mean that the situation would become even more tense and explosive.

The American physicist Wolfgang Panofsky, a professor at Stanford University, California, considers that it is only possible to escape from the present extremely dangerous nuclear confrontation by considerably reducing nuclear arsenals. It is necessary to achieve this goal, he writes in a letter published in THE NEW YORK TIMES, through talks and not by deploying a large-scale ABM system. The "Strategic Defense Initiative" is an illusion which distracts us from the main goal -- substantial reductions in nuclear arms -- the scientist stresses.

President Reagan's assertions of the "moral superiority" of defensive arms over offensive arms are used to mislead the American public regarding the genuine meaning of the "Strategic Defense Initiative," Bernard Davis, professor of bacteriology at Harvard University, writes in a letter to THE NEW YORK TIMES. Can it really be claimed that a shield is morally superior to a spear if it defends a man armed with a spear?

Sagan, Perle Clash

PM281042 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Mar 85 First Edition p 5

[Own correspondent G. Vasilyev report: "D-Minus for the Pentagon']

[Text] Washington, 26 Mar -- When the advocates of the U.S. military-industrial complex find themselves short of arguments during disputes with representatives of antiwar forces, they resort to abuse and threats. This is how Richard Perle, U.S. assistant secretary of defense, acted when he clashed with Carl Sagan, well-known scientist and principled opponent of the arms race, during a joint session of the U.S. House of Representatives subcommittees on natural resources, agriculture, and environmental problems. The question around which the sharp discussion raged was the consequences of nuclear war.

There has been wide reaction in the United States to a report by a group of scientists, including Sagan, who established that in the event of an "exchange of nuclear strikes" the globe, ravaged by destruction, fires, and radiation, will be gripped by "nuclear winter": Clouds of smoke and dust will block off the sun and bring about a sharp fall in temperature, which will threaten all living creatures on our planet with destruction. In an attempt to gloss over the impression made by the scientists' discovery, the Pentagon has published its own counterreport, which raises doubts about the specialists' conclusions. It was precisely from these positions that Perle spoke at the session, advocating the further buildup of arms by the United States as "the way to lasting peace." Sensing that he was losing the argument, the "errant hawk" descended to hurling insults at the astrophysicist.

This did not throw the scientist off his stride, however. In his statement he convincingly proved the untenability and danger of a policy which gives paramount importance to the nuclear arms race. He leveled particularly sharp criticism at the program for so-called "star wars," the plan for the deployment of a large-scale ABM defense system with space-based elements.

"You have to be crazy," Sagan declared, "to make the salvation of the world dependent on this program." "I am highly disturbed by the fact," he went on, "that they (representatives of the U.S. Administration -- G.V.) are trying to push the 'star wars' plans through at all costs." In the scientist's words, all scenarios for nuclear war drawn up in Washington proceed from the premise that the United States is capable of delivering a "first crushing strike." But these plans are suicidal, because a retaliatory strike would inevitably follow, and no "space umbrella" can provide salvation from it. The prospects of "nuclear winter," Sagan pointed out, "require an agonizing review" of military doctrines, including plans for the delivery of first strikes.

As regards the Pentagon report playing down the catastrophic consequences of a "nuclear exchange," Sagan said that if such work had been submitted to him by a student at Cornell University, where he lectures, he would have "graded it straight F, or, if I were in a good mood, D-minus."

U.S. WINS NATO NUCLEAR GROUP'S SUPPORT FOR SDI

LD281630 Moscow TASS in English 1618 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Luxembourg March 28 TASS -- Correspondent Albert Balebano reporting:

By resorting to strong pressure, the United States managed to win approval of a majority of its Western European partners for U.S. plans of preparations for "star wars".

This is the main outcome of the two-day session of NATO's Nuclear Planning Group held here. It was attended by defense ministers of 13 NATO member-countries (with the exception of France and Iceland), and Spain had sent its observers.

The final communique of the session directly expresses support for the U.S. "Strategic Defense Initiative" that, in the words of the document, meets NATO security interests, and welcomes Washington's invitation to its Western European partners to take part in its realization.

The United States has sent out such an invitation in order to draw its NATO allies deeper into implementing Washington's arms buildup plans and to dissipate doubts in Western Europe over yet another militarist program with the help of lavish promises including promises of lucrative multimillion orders. However, judging from the communique, Greece expressed disagreement with the U.S. plans, and Spain decided not to commit itself so far.

Against the background of militarist calls the session discussed progress of the deployment of U.S. first-strike nuclear missiles in a number of Western European countries, especially in the light of Belgium's decision to yield to U.S. and NATO pressure and agree to the siting of 16 cruise missiles on its territory. The session stressed the determination to carry on with the deployment of Pershing II and cruise missiles in Western Europe, despite mounting public protests. Greece and Denmark refused to sign corresponding sections of the communique. The session also agreed to take other measures to build up nuclear and conventional weapon capabilities.

Bogachev Comments

LD282132 Moscow TASS in English 2025 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Moscow March 28 TASS -- By TASS military writer Vladimir Bogachev:

The Nuclear Planning Group, comprising NATO defence ministers, bowing to Washington's pressure, has approved the implementation of the first stage of the American plan for preparing "star wars". The NATO members announced at their session in Luxembourg the readiness to consider the question of their countries' participation in the Pentagon's project.

The U.S. defence secretary, apparently sparing the self-esteem of some leaders of the European NATO countries who only recently expressed serious fears in connection with the American plans to deploy a large-scale anti-missile defence system, gave them sixty days to consider the matter.

Although the session's final communique, taking into account world public opinion, does mention terms of the ABM Treaty, the talks in Geneva and close consultations between the United States and its allies, the point at issue is, in effect, a U.S. ultimatum. The demand is that NATO members take part in research linked with the "Strategic Defence Initiative."

They in Washington have persistently claimed of late that the United States adopts a fundamentally new military strategy, transferring emphasis from offensive to defensive armaments and replacing the concept of "mutually guaranteed destruction" with that of "mutual survival". At that, U.S. Administration officials prefer not to link the plans for preparing "star wars" with the old American strategy of "limited" nuclear war in Europe. Ronald Reagan's "new formula" rests on the same U.S. directive of preparing for nuclear war that would be waged far from American coasts and ensuring relative safety for the aggressor from a retaliatory strike.

The "star wars" plan ensues from the requirements of the Pentagon concept of "limited" nuclear war.

The anti-missile shield is for the aggressor, the "limited" nuclear war is for Europe. Such is the meaning of the "evolution" of the Pentagon's strategic directives. What is new is that "acceptability" and even "advisability" of U.S. nuclear adventures in Europe should now be substantiated by the illusion of the aggressor's invulnerability behind the large-scale anti-missile defences.

By making the first step towards involvement in implementing the American "star wars" plans, the leaders of Western European NATO countries are embarking on a dangerous path leading to the destabilization of the military-political situation in the world.

CONGRESS GIVES FINAL APPROVAL TO MX PROGRAM

LD291015 Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] Under pressure of the administration, the American Congress has given its final approval of the plan to produce more intercontinental MX missiles. During the second voting on 28 March, the House of Representatives sanctioned by a majority only 7 votes the allocation of $1,500 million on the building of 21 more MX missiles. Democratic congressmen point out that despite the massive lobbying undertaken by the Reagan administration, the results of the voting were much more modest than expected.

PROGRESS AT LATEST CDE SESSION REVIEWED

PM281654 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Mar 85 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent A. Sychev dispatch under the rubric "The Day's Events": "To Seek Mutually Acceptable Solutions. At the Stockholm Conference]

[Text] Stockholm -- The latest session of the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe has ended its work. The importance of the forum's tasks and the imperative need to solve them stem from the tense situation prevailing in Europe and throughout the world, from the ever increasing nuclear threat. This is precisely why the work of the Stockholm Conference has been followed intently by the European and world public.

It is well known that at the previous session, the conference participants reached an agreement to set up two working groups to examine submitted proposals on an equal basis. In the opinion of most participants, this made it possible to move on to a more active stage of the talks.

The Soviet Union and other socialist countries have persistently advocated that the conference's work be held in a businesslike vein. Exceptionally great importance is attached to the document "Basic Provisions of a Treaty on the Mutual Nonuse of Military Force and Maintenance of Relations of Peace" submitted by the Soviet Union.

The socialist countries' proposals are formulated within the framework of the requirement of equal respect for the security interests of all states participating in the conference and provide a sound basis for conducting the talks on a practical rather than purely verbal basis; they make a weighty contribution to normalizing the situation in Europe. For example, the conclusion of a treaty on the mutual nonuse of military force would be an important step toward the creation of real confidence among states.

The political and legal affirmation of this principle among a wide group of countries would render it an effective and obligatory rule of international life.

Special significance in today's complex situation attaches also to the proposal put forward by the socialist countries on limiting the scale of military exercises in Europe and its contiguous sea and air space. Both at previous sessions and the latest one, the constructive proposals by the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries did not meet with the due response from the delegations of the North Atlantic bloc member-countries. As before, they applied the tactics of procrastination, stubbornly trying to force a discussion on their own "package" of proposals concerning military-technical measures and postponing discussion of the socialist countries' initiative until later, so to speak.

At the end of the current session, the NATO countries introduced a new document which in fact contains nothing new. The 18-page document, which they have christened "SC-1 Expanded Version," brings together provisions submitted a whole year ago.

The NATO countries are placing special emphasis on the so-called "transparency" concept -- in other words, obtaining extensive information of military significance -- which they present at the only measure of trust between states worth any attention.

Yet, you only have to recall the "strike in depth" doctrine adopted by the NATO Military Planning Committee, and all that remains of the universality of the "transparency" concept is the desire to obtain information needed to plan offensive operations against a large group of states represented at the conference. There can be even less confidence if the "transparency," according to NATO's proposal, excludes troop contingents stationed in the United States and on U.S. bases but meant to be used in Europe.

Although the work of the fifth session, which has just ended, failed to mark the start of constructive talks, the conference -- and this opinion is shared by many delegations -- did make headway in its work. All participants concretized their proposals, and the starting material on the basis of which mutually acceptable final documents can and must be elaborated was determined.

The idea of the need to combine political and military confidence-building measures is encountering increasing understanding and support among participants in the forum. Only on the basis of this approach will it be possible to achieve a real strengthening of security in Europe.

Grinevskiy on Conference

LD291038 Moscow TASS in English 1032 GMT 29 Mar 85

["Briefing at the Press Center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS -- "The transfer of the center of gravity of the discussion to the working groups has made it possible to consider in greater detail both political and military confidence measures. At the same time to this very day the Stockholm forum still has not managed to move from the exchange of speeches to practical negotiations", said Oleg Grinevskiy, head of the delegation of the USSR to the Stockholm Conference on Confidence and Security Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe. He spoke at a briefing for Soviet and foreign newsmen in Moscow.

Analysing the reasons for that, Oleg Grinevskiy said that the Soviet Union, socialist countries had in every way promoted a situation whereby the conference would proceed in a businesslike vein and adopt major and effective measures which really could improve the political climate in Europe. This is what the entire wide range of their proposals on confidence and security building measures in Europe is aimed at, Grinevskiy emphasized.

Wide response has been evoked by the Soviet Union's proposal, based on the initiative of socialist countries, on fundamental provisions of a treaty on non-use of military force. That proposal has become the core of the political discussion at the conference, Grinevskiy went on to say. The realization of the need to impart the maximum binding character to the principle of non-use of force is increasingly finding its way into the political tissue of the talks. The task now is to embody that important international commitment into precise formulas.

The socialist countries, said the head of the Soviet delegation to the Stockholm Conference, propose to get down to the development of confidence measures in the military field -- measures, more substantial in character and wider in scope -- compared with the measures already in effect as stipulated by the Helsinki Final Act. Initiatives have been submitted by them on those questions as well.

However, Grinevskiy went on to say, the unconstructive position of the United States and some NATO countries disrupts the working rhythm of the Stockholm Conference. For the duration of an entire session they staged a farce of submitting the very same proposals, first one by one, then all together. This took two months, although the tense situation in Europe, the continuing deployment of U.S. first-strike nuclear missiles there, the arms race imperatively demand urgent actions to lessen the threat of nuclear confrontation and to promote European security.

Oleg Grinevskiy noted that NATO proposals contained nothing new. As before, they were directed at uncovering the military activities of the Warsaw Treaty countries and winning unilateral military advantages. As before, they do not meet the demands of quality of rights and equal respect for security. Nowhere and not in a single aspect do these proposals take account of considerations voiced by socialist and nonaligned states.

The Soviet Union is firmly convinced that the present crucial phase of development of the situation in Europe demands that the atmosphere of trust and cooperation be created. The course of events at the Stockholm forum raises the question of prospects for strengthening peace. The Soviet Union, socialist countries are ready for such talks on an honest and equal basis. We would like our partners in the talks to understand the position of the Soviet Union and respond in kind. Then agreement will be possible, Oleg Grinevskiy said in conclusion.

35TH SESSION OF VIENNA MBFR TALKS ENDS

LD281323 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Our correspondent Viktor Mikheyev reports from Vienna:

The 35th round of the Vienna Talks on Mutual Reduction of Armed Forces and Armaments in Central Europe is ending in the Austrian capital today. During this round the Soviet Union submitted a draft of basic provisions of an agreement concerning an initial reduction of land forces and armaments in Central Europe by the Soviet Union and the United States and subsequent freeze of the level of armed forces and armaments by the sides in this region.

This constructive step was taken on behalf of the socialist countries, direct participants of the talks. Western participants of the talks limited themselves for the duration of the entire round to a repetition of the well-known Western position. NATO bloc member-states have continued to seek unilateral advantages for themselves, calculating to use the talks for their mercenary motives.

Next Round Starts 23 May

LD281413 Moscow TASS in English 1405 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Vienna March 28 TASS -- The final plenary meeting of a regular round of the Vienna Talks on the Mutual Reduction of the Armed Forces and Armaments in Central Europe has been held here. The head of the Polish delegation, S. Przygodski, addressing the meeting, pointed out that the round's chief event was the submission by the socialist countries, direct participants in the talks, of a new proposal on the initial reduction by the Soviet Union and the United States of the land troops and armaments in central Europe and the subsequent non-increase of the levels of the armed forces and armaments of the sides in that region.

He draw attention to the constructive and practical character of the initiative, directed at turning from words to deeds and starting the process of lowering the level of military confrontation. The Polish representative pointed out the need for achieving concrete results in the work of the Vienna forum, noting that the West should give a serious, constructive and timely response to the proposal advanced by the socialist countries.

The U.S. representative addressed the meeting on behalf of the NATO member states. His statement was reduced to the reiteration of the known Western position and did not in fact contain a reply to the proposals of the socialist nations.

The next round of the Vienna talks will be held from May 23 to July 11 this year.

LATE REPORT: 48 MX MISSILES REQUESTED FOR 1986

LD291249 Moscow TASS in English 1232 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] Washington March 29 TASS -- Under unprecedented pressure from the Reagan administration, the U.S. Congress has voted final approval for a further production of first-strike MX intercontinental nuclear ballistic missiles. During the second vote, the House of Representatives sanctioned by 217 votes to 210 to spend 1.5 billion dollars in the current fiscal year on the construction of 21 new MX missiles in addition to the first batch of 21 missiles already in production. Thus, a fresh impetus was given to the build-up of the U.S. strategic arsenal within the framework of the notorious "United States' rearmament" programme, aimed at achieving military superiority over the USSR.

The administration intends to continue intensive brainwashing of the legislators with a view to securing funds for a new batch of MX missiles. Around four billion dollars were requested for the production of another 48 such missiles in fiscal 1986. Judging by Reagan's statements following voting in the House of Representatives, the White House plans to carry through in full the programme for the development and deployment of these first-strike nuclear systems totalling 223 missiles.

ZAMYATIN INTERVIEWED ON INDIA, GENEVA TALKS

BK270758 Delhi PATRIOT in English 18 Mar 85 p 4

[Text of replies by Leonid Zamyatin, member of the CPSU Central Committee and head of its International Information Department, to questions put to him by PATRIOT's Moscow Correspondent P. Roychoudhury and PTI and UNI]

[Text] Question: India's new leadership is determined to follow the nonaligned policy it inherited from Jawarhar Lal Nehru and Indira Gandhi. This March marks the second anniversary of the 7th non-aligned forum in Delhi. How does the Soviet Union assess India's role in this movement and the role of the movement itself in the context of the present tense international situation?

Answer: I have been in India and seen how it implements the ideas of Jawahar Lal Nehru, the first prime minister of your country. His views and progressive outlook exercised a considerable influence on the evolution of the Nonaligned Movement which is today a major positive factor of international life.

Nehru's cause was taken up by Indira Gandhi, who devoted her entire life to the promotion of the movement's principles and traditions, and to strengthening its anti-imperialist character. Her chairmanship, a post of great honour, was a recognition of her country's tremendous contribution to the efforts to ensure universal peace and the security of the peoples.

The Soviet Union appreciates and values what India as a great Asian power and nonaligned leader did to add to the common efforts to improve the international situation, because the goals pursued by India as the movement's chairman and by the Nonaligned Movement as a whole are near and understandable to the Soviet people. This country invariably sides with world peace forces in strengthening international security.

You surely remember the conditions in which the 7th nonaligned forum met in Delhi. It was at the time of a sharp aggravation of the international situation when the U.S. Administration openly embarked on a policy of subverting detente, of destroying all that had been achieved in the way of curbing the arms race, when the imperialist powers stepped up their interference in the internal affairs of the nonaligned countries.

Since then the arms race has soldiered on still further. The U.S. and its close NATO allies are now talking of extending their military activities to outer space. It need not be stressed what tragic consequences this spells for mankind.

The two years that have elapsed since the Delhi forum, have been quite a few examples showing that the "crusade" proclaimed by imperialism against socialism is directed also against all progressive trends in the world, against national liberation movements, against genuine decolonisation of the nonaligned Asian, African and Latin American countries.

Recall the invasion of Grenada, the occupation of Lebanon, the undeclared war against Nicaragua, the outrages in the south of Africa. This is the "crusade" in action. These countries fell victim to it only because their system of government and way of life did not match the American pattern of "democracy", which is enough for Washington to justify its military interference.

In Asia, imperialism is declaring ever new areas as belonging to its sphere of "vital interests", such as the Far East, the Pacific and Indian Oceans. In extending its military cooperation with Japan and South Korea, the U.S. seeks to set up a sort of NATO branch in the East.

It is also in the context of these factors that one should look at Washington's policy of convincing at Islamabad's military ambitions. The substance of this policy is to convert Pakistan into a tool of U.S. expansionism.

The world, including the Soviet Union, has evaluated highly Indira Gandhi's foreign policy steps aimed at curbing the arms race, primarily in nuclear missile weapons, averting the threat of a thermonuclear war and stamping out flashpoints on this planet, especially in the Middle East, southern Africa and Central America.

The world estimates highly the fact that the cause of the great daughter of the Indian people is being continued by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who is everywhere known as a firm adherent of the Jawahar Lal Nehru-Indira Gandhi line. Evidence of that is the recent meeting of the Six in Delhi, chaired by Rajiv Gandhi. Its participants went on record in favour of improving the international situation, ending the arms race, ensuring a peaceful outer space and removing nuclear weapons from the face of the earth.

The solution of these problems requires joint efforts by the socialist and nonaligned countries, by all progressive forces. They are partners and colleagues in defending the rights of the nations and the peaceful future of humanity. We will develop and strengthen our friendship with them.

Experience shows that joint moves by the USSR and India, as well as other socialist and nonaligned countries, on a number of acute international problems in the past have borne tangible fruit and helped to defuse explosive situations. The Soviet Union believes that this practice will continue.

We are in favour of expanding our cooperation with India, of promoting and deepening the diverse Soviet-Indian ties on the firm foundation of the Soviet-Indian Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation, which serves well the interests of both countries, and the cause of peace in Asia and the world.

The Soviet people rejoice in the achievements of the Indian people and wish them new accomplishments in all spheres of material and cultural life, in upholding the Republic's independent foreign policy line. They fully support the efforts by the people and Government of India to strengthen the country's unity and territorial integrity.

Question: New Soviet-American negotiations in Geneva opened at the time of the second anniversary of the 7th Nonaligned Conference. Are you optimistic about their positive outcome? If they fail, don't you think this will worsen the international political climate further? How would you comment on this?

Answer: The heightened interest in the Geneva talks is easy to explain. Their results will decide whether the world will pursue the arms race more rapidly and the danger of war increases, or reason will prevail.

The Soviet Union does not seek any unilateral advantages or military superiority over the United States and NATO countries.

We uphold the principle of equality and equal security. We want the arms race to end, not to continue; we want real cuts in armaments, not the development of ever-new weapon systems, be it in space or on earth, whether offensive or defensive. Our aim is to abolish all nuclear weapons everywhere in the world, to eliminate the threat of nuclear war altogether.

Unfortunately, this cannot be said of the United States, which will largely determine the course of negotiations in Geneva. The fact is that on the eve of the meeting it was the American mass information media that circulated bleak forecasts all over the world.

U.S. officials say that they will continue to carry on their plans to militarise space. For the sake of camouflage, they declare that it is only research work. But what sort of work, one may wonder? The answer is one to develop allegedly defensive weapons, whether nuclear, laser-based, or other, for deployment in space. If we take off the veil, it will become obvious that this means a new spiral in the arms race.

It should be made clear that the Soviet Union will never agree to the superiority of the U.S. for success in this field it is absolutely necessary to examine and decide matters related to space and nuclear armaments as one complex in their interconnection.

Judging from your question, the Indian public, as well as the Soviet, American and other peoples, are anxious to know what happens if the negotiations in Geneva end in failure.

I can only confirm once again that the Soviet Union takes a very sober view of such a prospect and is doing whatever it can to prevent it from becoming a reality. The Soviet leadership does not share the forecasts dooming the talks to a fiasco. The Soviet Union will work for tangible and practical results.

Question: What do you think are the chances of settling the socalled "Afghan issue" politically? Do you see any evidence of change in Islamabad's approach to the Afghan question" and in its policy in South West and South Asia in general?

Answer: The Soviet point of view on this matter has not changed: There is no other way of settling the "Afghan problem" except political. Such is also the fundamental stand of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, which is supported by many states, India included.

Unfortunately, there are imperialist forces hampering such a just settlement. For reaching agreement, the Afghan side has repeatedly called upon its neighbouring countries of Pakistan and Iran to sit down at the negotiating table and discuss the existing problems with a view to arrive at bilateral arrangements capable of normalising the situation in the region.

It was twice -- on 14 March 1980 and on 24 August 1981 -- that the Afghan Government came forward with peaceful initiatives to settle the situation around Afghanistan. The second of these documents took into account the wishes of the Pakistani side and displayed a flexible approach, opening the way to mutually acceptable agreement.

The only positive result along this path was the beginning of Afghan-Pakistani negotiations in Geneva, attended by Diego Cordovez, a representative of the UN secretary-general. Three rounds of such talks have been held in the Palais des Nations since June 1982, with their continuations scheduled for last February. The Pakistani side, however, pleading elections, proposed moving them to May.

If we analyse the course of the negotiations held, we will see that both the Afghan and Soviet sides assess them as steps in the right direction. But one cannot help noticing that whenever the negotiating side showed signs of moving closer to each other and positive shifts became evident, the United States did its utmost to prevent them from occurring, and Pakistan reverted to its initial stand.

In dealing with the "Afghan issue" or rather with the striving by the U.S. and some other powers not to allow a democratic republic to exist in Afghanistan, it should be remembered that the U.S. Administration is for a continuation of the undeclared war against Afghanistan. It does not want an agreement between the two neighbouring countries. As for Islamabad's position, it is serving U.S. interests. Pakistan has been converted into a base for military operations against Afghanistan. Within a short period of time it found itself involved in the U.S. global strategic orbit and in the role of the U.S. chief ally in south west Asia.

The large appropriations to rearm the Pakistani Army, its equipment with up-to-date weapons, and involvement of U.S. NATO allies in the massive militarisation of the country, have achieved their ends.

As far as the U.S. is concerned, the Reagan administration intends to wage the war against Afghanistan to the last Afghan, as it says. In March 1981, the head of the White House, discarding any camouflage, declared openly his support for Afghan counter-revolution and described bandits and agents smuggled into Afghanistan as "freedom fighters". Since then the CIA has been carrying out in Afghanistan its biggest ever operation, which has already cost it more than a billion dollars.

It is common knowledge that not only Afghans trained in special camps on Pakistani territory but also regular units of the Pakistani Army are used in military operations against Afghanistan. This is the answer to your question about the chances of a political settlement of the "Afghan issue".

REAGAN DEMANDS ALLIES 'ADOPT AUSTERITY MEASURES'

LD290925 Moscow TASS in English 0843 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] Washington March 29 TASS -- TASS correspondent Aleksandr Shalnev reports: Allies of the United States should take over the brunt of the increasing difficulties that confront the American economy. This demand has in effect been made in President Reagan's speech at the New York City's stock exchange.

The kind of background for his speech was served by the latest statistical bulletin of the Department of Commerce, which reported another and drastic increase of the already record-big U.S. balance of payments deficit. After noting the painful situation in which American export-producing companies had found themselves, the President demanded that the West Europeans and Japan open their markets to U.S. commodities. In the meantime, Washington itself has been steadily toughening its protectionist measures in international trade and throwing up one barrier after another to goods from abroad.

Just a short time before Reagan's speech the Senate Finance Committee endorsed a bill for substantial restrictions on imports from Japan.

The President's speech also contained demands to allies to adopt "austerity" measures by cutting back spending on social welfare programs. Reagan argued that the cuts were the key to a successful economic future and cited the example of the United States to push his case.

Facts show conclusively, however, that the situation in the U.S. economy is not at all as bright as painted by Washington. Many economists already see distinct prospects for another cyclical slump which will be deeper than the previous one. Industrial production, according to the BUSINESS WEEK journal, is now 1.4 percent down on last summer, while the output of durable goods has dropped by as much as six percent since last fall. Besides the dollar exchange rate on currency markets has also been falling, which shows, as ABC television said, growing disbelief in America's financial and economic "health".

U.S.-USSR ECONOMIC MEETING BEGINS IN MOSCOW

LD282314 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 28 Mar 85

[From the "Vremya" newscast; report over video]

[Text] A Soviet-American meeting on problems of economic relations began in Moscow today. It was organized by the Soviet and American associations for cooperation with the United Nations. At the opening, Academician Arbatov, director of the United States of America and Canada Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences, emphasized the importance of such meetings. Included on the agenda are questions of the existing state, and prospects for, the development of East-West economic relations, including those between the Soviet Union and the United States. Participating in the meeting are leading representatives of the public and business circles of both countries.

U.S. BUSINESSMEN CONFIRM INTEREST IN USSR TRADE

PM281135 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Mar 85 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Against Trade Discrimination. The Opinion of U.S. Business Circles"]

[Text] Durham (North Carolina), 24 Mar -- U.S. business circles are interested in arranging multifaceted, mutually advantageous trade and economic relations between the Soviet Union and the United States. This was reaffirmed by the debate at an international conference here on the theme "Trade and Scientific and Technical Cooperation Between East and West." It was attended by around 200 prominent U.S. businessmen, including presidents and board chairmen of major U.S. companies. Representatives of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology and of Soviet foreign trade organizations also took part.

From practical experience of cooperation with the Soviet side, W. Norris, chairman of Control Data, said, we have learned that there is enormous potential for expanding mutually advantageous trade and economic ties. However, in order to realize this potential, the U.S. Administration must abandon all "sanctions" and efforts to use trade for political ends. The businessmen quoted the refusal to issue licenses to Control Data for the supply of equipment to the USSR as an example of the discriminatory barriers erected by Washington. This practice, he said, is damaging as far as U.S. entrepreneurs are concerned and aggravates the problem of unemployment, which is our gravest social ill. At the same time, Norris noted, such acts of discrimination cannot prevent the Soviet economy from developing.

In their speeches, the conference participants cited figures which show that as a result of the artificial obstacles placed by the U.S. Administration in the way of the development of Soviet-American trade, Caterpillar Tractor, Control Data, and other U.S. firms have lost hundreds of millions of dollars. This is happening, (E. Solk), president of (Solk, Uord, and Solk), stressed, because the U.S. Government is waging a cold war policy in the trade sphere. He urged business circles to exploit the available opportunities for a sharp expansion of Soviet-American trade. R. Lundeen, chairman of Dow Chemical, which has considerable experience in cooperation with Soviet foreign trade organizations, presented a number of practical recommendations to help improve Soviet-American trade and economic cooperation.

But the speech by (J. Brouer), representing the U.S. Commerce Department, showed that the Washington administration will not heed the opinion of the U.S. business circles and intends to continue blocking the development of trade relations between the two countries. In particular, he said that Washington is not about to raise the question of revoking the discriminatory legislative provisions linking trade to matters which have no bearing on that sphere.

In this connection, (A. Key), president of On Line Markets, criticized several representatives of U.S. business circles who, for fear of attracting White House displeasure, are not demanding that the administration review its discrimination policy. He called upon the U.S. business world to use all its influence to promote the expansion of Soviet-American trade.

The representatives of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology noted that the comprehensive development of scientific and technical cooperation and trade relations between the USSR and the United States would be of considerable advantage to both sides. He stressed that it would also help strengthen mutual understanding between the Soviet and American peoples in the name of consolidating world peace.

ARMY PAPER ARTICLE ON U.S. NAVAL POWER

Part III

PM271251 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Mar 85 Second Edition p 5

[Part three of article by Captain 2d Class Ye. Nikitin: "In Pursuit of Superiority at Sea. 3. The U.S. Navy in the Indian Ocean"]

[Text] For a long time now the Indian Ocean basin, with its massive economic and human resources, has been an object of U.S. imperialism's appetite. The Indian Ocean zone is the location of the capitalist world's main oil repository -- the Persian Gulf. Suffice it to say that over 40 percent of the oil consumed in Western countries is produced there. It is no accident, therefore, that the U.S. military and political leadership is gazing more and more fixedly in that direction.

U.S. economic penetration of the Indian Ocean is bound up with militarist expansion. The gamble is mainly on the use of navel forces. In 1979 the United States decided to keep a naval grouping of impressive composition and power permanently in the Indian Ocean. It is indicative that, one year before the decision, Washington broke off the Soviet-American talks on limitation and subsequent cessation of naval activity in the Indian Ocean and has thus far refused to resume them.

At the present stage, the U.S. naval force in the Indian Ocean, as has been said in a previous article in this series, is based on the ships that make up the U.S. Pacific 7th Fleet. In some cases it may be strengthened by the addition of ships from the 6th (Mediterranean) Fleet. The force comprises 1-2 multirole aircraft carriers (with about 180 combat aircraft on board), 2-4 missile cruisers, 9-12 destroyers and frigates, 2-3 multirole nuclear submarines, and 12-18 support ships. During the period of deterioration of the situation in the Indian Ocean region (in 1980, for example, during the Iranian revolution) the U.S. strike force there was practically doubled and the number of aircraft carriers was raised to four. They had on board about 360 aircraft, 150-160 of them carrying nuclear weapons.

Pentagon chief Weinberger's cynical revelation: "It is a region where the terms 'parity' and 'equality' are unacceptable to us. We must have naval superiority" is vivid evidence of the general thrust of U.S. naval policy in the Indian Ocean.

To achieve this end the U.S. Navy Command is taking pains not only to increase the rise of the fleet but also to change its structure. The fleet now has the job not only of hitting the enemy with all the means at its disposal, but also of ensuring that it captures and keeps bridgeheads or facilities on the territory of littoral countries. To this end, in virtually all recent U.S. Navy deployment actions in the Indian Ocean, aircraft carrier formations have been reinforced with assault forces or marines.

At the same time, the U.S. Fleet in the Indian Ocean is increasingly performing a gendarme function, its role becoming similar to that of the interventionist Rapid Deployment Force, the so-called Central Command (Centcom). As is known, Centcom's sphere of responsibility includes the territories of 19 states in east Africa, the Near and Middle East, and the northwest Indian Ocean. In performing militarist acts in this region the U.S. naval force is operating as an integral part of the Rapid Deployment Force.

The U.S. command is preparing the ground for the use of the Navy and the other components of the Rapid Deployment Force by creating and expanding the militarist infrastrucutre in the Indian Ocean.

It is based on military bases and strongpoints. The naval and air force outposts in Pakistan, Oman, Somalia, and Kenya constitute a kind of unified complex on the northern and western shores of the Indian Ocean. The passage from the Indian Ocean to the Pacific (and back) is controlled by U.S. bases in the Philippines. As the Manila paper (MALAYYA) reported the other day, citing a secret report by the U.S. military department, the U.S. Armed Forces Command has been giving the go-ahead by the White House to deploy 227 nuclear bombs in the Philippines. They could be placed on board combat aircraft at the U.S. Clark Field Air Force Base and on board ships of the U.S. 7th Fleet, for which the Subic Bay Base is the main port of registration. In the southeast sector the air and naval bases on Australian territory are used.

The main base is the multipurpose one on Diego Garcia, located in the middle of the Indian Ocean. This key base continues to be expanded and improved, but it is already capable of receiving B-52 strategic bombers and heavy transport aircraft and of servicing aircraft carriers and nuclear submarines. There are stocks of nuclear warheads and chemical weapons hidden underground. A group of big cargo ships, floating heavy-armament and ammunition stores for the Rapid Deployment Force, has congregated in the roads. Foreign experts believe that the stocks are sufficient for combat actions by an expeditionary brigade of 12,000 men over a period of 30 days.

On top of that, navigation complexes for various purposes, space communications stations, and facilities for a global system of controlling forces in the world ocean and for maintaining a strategic nuclear war are being constructed in the region. The Pentagon is closely studying the possibility of creating a special-operations 5th Fleet for the Indian Ocean.

A characteristic feature of Washington's activity in building up its Navy in the Indian Ocean is the fact that it is involving the main U.S. NATO allies in it. For instance, France keeps 8-10 ships and 12,000 soldiers in the western part of the ocean, Britain regularly sends a dozen warships and auxiliary ships to patrol there, and the FRG started sending warships to the Indian Ocean in spring 1980.

U.S. naval expansion in the Indian Ocean basin today is a continuation of the U.S. "gunboat diplomacy" of the end of the last and beginning of the present century, except that the gunboats have been replaced by nuclear-powered aircraft carriers. The new "aircraft carrier policy" for the Indian Ocean was formulated by the U.S. defense secretary. Trying to justify the administration's buildup of naval might in southwest Asia, he said: "It is essential for the purpose of supporting our ground forces and ground-based aircraft, which ensure the defense of the forward areas of theaters of hostilities in Europe and Asia. This obviously means increasing the offensive strike power of our Navy."

The Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, as well as the independent countries of the region, have been forced to respond by adopting defensive measures. At the same time, they are directing their efforts toward turning the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace and cooperation. They are fully determined to block the U.S. expansionist aspirations in that region.

Part IV

PM291043 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Mar 85 Second Edition p 3

[Article by Captain Ye. Nikitin, the fourth and final article in the series: "In Pursuit of Superiority at Sea" -- first three paragraphs are KRASNAYA ZVEZDA introduction]

[Text] Today we complete the publication of the series of articles on the U.S. Navy.

Pentagon strategists use any far-fetched pretexts to expand their military presence thousands of miles from U.S. territory. Spearheading its aggressive policy against the USSR and the other socialist countries as the main bulwark of peace, U.S. imperialism is threatening the security of all peoples and is seeking to subordinate to them to its diktat and secure maximum profits for its monopolies.

The U.S. Navy is one of the most maneuverable instruments for pursuing this policy. Permanently deployed in various regions of the world's oceans, they not only increase tension in Europe, Asia, Africa, the Near East, and Central America, but are also permanently directed toward direct military intervention.

The Soviet Union actively and consistently advocates the limitation of naval activity and naval armaments and the demilitarization of the world's oceans. Our country is prepared to resolve this problem, but, of course, to resolve it on the basis of the principles of parity and identical security.

4. U.S. Navy in the Mediterranean

NATO Headquarters notes that the Mediterranean region is assigned a special importance in the Pentagon's preparations. First, because the Mediterranean is the main element of the NATO south European theater of military operations, which is viewed as one of the main bridgeheads for waging war against the USSR and the other socialist community countries. Second, the sea and air communications routes of three continents intersect in it. Suffice it to say that 40 percent of all the oil they import is supplied to the NATO countries via the Mediterranean. In addition, by joining Europe to Asia and Africa and joining the Atlantic with the Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean is the departure line for fighting the national liberation movements in the Near East and Africa.

The great length of the coastline of the countries comprising NATO's southern flank and the separateness of their territories impart particular importance to the tasks set the naval forces. The success of military operations on the bloc's southern flank, the foreign press notes, is made dependent primarily on the activity of the U.S. 6th Fleet.

The 6th Fleet, which is considered to be the most combat-ready formation of the U.S. general naval forces, serves as the main tool of the U.S. imperial policy in the Mediterranean region. It is formed of ships which have undergone training within the U.S. Atlantic Fleet. According to Western press reports, the U.S. Fleet under routine conditions includes up to 40 ships and auxiliary vessels, including 1-2 aircraft carriers (on board are 85-170 aircraft of which half carry nuclear weapons), 2-3 missile-carrying cruisers, and up to 30 destroyers and frigates, several nuclear-powered multi-purpose submarines, landing ships, and auxiliary vessels, and base patrol aircraft. Even in peace time the 6th Fleet personnel is kept at wartime strength and number approximately 25,000 men, including 1,800-2,000 marines. The ships are at sea most of the time. One ship (usually a cruiser or staff ship) also carries the 6th Fleet commander's staff. The ship is registered at the Gaeta naval base (in the Naples region).

The main points at which the U.S. 6th Fleet ships are based are the naval bases and ports of Italy, Greece, Turkey, and Spain. It is believed that the system of basing creates favorable conditions for the fleet's deployment and its execution of combat operations.

The main naval bases of the U.S. 6th Fleet are situated in Italy, both its continental part and the Islands of Sicily, Sardinia, and Maddalena.

The Pentagon's militarist ambitions are no longer met by the existing system of basing, and it is seeking to expand it. The transformation of the La Maddalena naval base on the island of the same name into another nuclear bastion is particularly dangerous here. The press reports that the modernization of that base now under way was necessary to the Pentagon in connection with the fact that, since June 1984, the U.S. multipurpose nuclear submarines stationed on it have begun to be equipped with long-range Tomahawk nuclear cruise missiles.

The territory of the countries of the Iberian Peninsula is becoming increasingly important for the operations of the U.S. 6th Fleet. That is why the Pentagon is strengthening its military bases, both on the mainland part of Portugal and Spain and on the islands belonging to those countries.

The 6th Fleet is often called the U.S. floating gendarme. Everyone can remember that gendarme's atrocities off the shores of Lebanon when the battleship New Jersey's heavy-caliber 406 mm guns sowed death and destruction on Lebanese soil. Form U.S. aircraft carriers deck-landing aircraft shamelessly invaded that sovereign country's air space.

The "strategic alliance" between Washington and Tel Aviv lent new impetus to the U.S. 6th Fleet's gendarme operations. Within the framework of that alliance joint militarist displays by those countries' Navies were mounted for the first time in December last year in the east Mediterranean. The dimensions of these exercises are borne out by the fact that the U.S. 6th Fleet was represented by the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier the Dwight D. Eisenhower, the nuclear-powered cruiser the Mississipi, and a number of destroyers and frigates. Nearly all the Israeli side's warships took part.

If the situation is aggravated or at the initial period of a war, NATO's naval strike forces in the south European theater are formed on the basis of the U.S. 6th Fleet. They could include also the ships of other NATO countries. The U.S. 6th Fleet commander becomes the commander of these NATO naval strike forces.

The Western press notes that the U.S. multiple purpose aircraft carrier formation of one or two groups is the nucleus of the NATO strike naval forces in the south European theater. In connection with France's more active involvement in the NATO military preparations, the possibility is being envisaged of including one or two French aircraft carriers with escort ships in this formation.

An amphibious landing formation serves as the second component of the NATO strike naval forces in the south European theater. It is also formed on the basis of U.S. landing ships of the U.S. 6th Fleet carrying a reinforced Marine battalion. Depending on the specific situation, the amphibious landing formation can be reinforced by the landing ships and marines of other NATO countries.

Finally, the service forces comprise the third component of the NATO strike naval forces. They include munitions transports, tankers, and other auxiliary vessels.

The NATO strike naval forces in the south European theater are viewed by the command of the aggressive NATO bloc as the most important means of conducting combat operations at sea using conventional and nuclear weapons. They are assigned a special role in the period of the emergence of an extraordinary situation in this region. The plans to use naval strike forces are regularly rehearsed at exercises of the NATO allied Armed Forces and U.S. 6th Fleet special maneuvers. Here, actual measures to prepare and unleash aggression are carried out under the guise of exercises.

So it was in the period of the aggravation of Syrian-Israeli relations in May-June 1981 when the ships of the U.S. 6th Fleet and other NATO countries, under the guise of conducting exercises, were transferred to the operational command of the NATO leadership, brought into heightened combat readiness, and concentrated in the east Mediterranean with a view to demonstrating their military presence and bringing pressure to bear on the Arab states' progressive and democratic forces.

The Western press notes that in addition to the U.S. 6th Fleet, 2-3 U.S. nuclear-powered missile-carrying submarines are equipped with Poseidon C-3 missiles. They carry 32-48 missiles, each of which has 10 nuclear warheads. Only here the U.S. nuclear-powered missile-carrying submarines are transferred to NATO jurisdiction.

A particular danger for the destiny of peace lies in the enormous concentration of U.S. nuclear weapons in the Mediterranean region. As the newspaper PAESE SERA notes, 576 nuclear munitions are now stockpiled on Italian territory. The lion's share is intended for use by the U.S. Navy in the Mediterranean. Thus, in addition to approximately 400 warheads on the Poseidon C-3 missiles on the nuclear-powered missile-carrying submarines and the Tomahawk missiles on the multiple purpose nuclear submarines, there are 50 nuclear munitions for the ASW weapons systems and 43 depth charges designed for use by base patrol aircraft.

In addition, the ships of the U.S. 6th Fleet have their own nuclear weapon stockpiles. There is also a reserve of nuclear weapons on board the special ammunition transports in the Mediterranean. There are also nuclear weapons in the Marine subunits.

In galvanizing the activity of its 6th Fleet, the United States is complicating the situation now in one part of the Mediterranean, now in another, but the U.S. policy of nuclear adventurism in the Mediterranean is opposed by the firm resolve of the Soviet Union and the other freedom-loving states to prevent a nuclear conflict and to transform the Mediterranean from an area of military and political confrontation into a zone of stable peace and cooperation.

COMMENTARY ON U.S. 'ESPIONAGE' IN MIDEAST

LD271756 Moscow International Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Mar 85

[Aleksey Zlatorunskiy commentary]

[Text] Last Sunday [24 March], a U.S. intelligence officer, with the rank of major, infiltrated close to a Soviet military target in GDR territory. When he was caught red-handed, he tried to run away; he was killed by a Soviet soldier performing his military duty.

Instead of deriving the necessary conclusions from this and apologizing for what happened, the current U.S. Administration's command tried to feign great wrath at a time when Washington has no ground for getting angry. Catching a U.S. intelligence man red-handed is not unique. Since the Reagan administration lifted, in practice, all the restrictions imposed on the activities of the U.S. subversive espionage circles and allocated huge resources for them to carry out espionage activities, hatch plots, and carry out political assassinations and ideological sabotage, these circles began to go too far in their activities, knowing no limits, be it in Latin America, Asia, or particularly in the Middle East. The targets of their operations are Nicaragua, Afghanistan, India, and Vietnam, all countries pursuing an independent policy and refusing to submit to Washington's orders.

As for the Middle East, it is an area where U.S. intelligence cooperates with Israeli intelligence. The United States tries actively to use this area for subversive activities against the independent peoples of the Middle East. Here are some examples:

In special bases, the United States formed sabotage groups in Sudan which are being prepared under the supervision of U.S. instructors for dispatch to neighboring Libya and Ethiopia, countries the United States long ago placed on its blacklist. The United States and Israel used Sudanese territory for their insolent operation codenamed Moses, when about 13,000 Ethiopian Jews who had fled famine in Ethiopia were transported by U.S. and Israeli planes from Sudan to Israel. These two strategic partners, the United States and Israel, are planning to form suppressive groups of Ethiopian Jews brought from Sudan for deployment on the Lebanese borders.

To activate its subversive activities, the United States uses Moroccan territory. CIA chief Charles Sweet said recently that relay stations for the Voice of America will be set up in Tangiers in accordance with an agreement concluced with the American authorities. In short, Moroccan territory will be used for open propaganda against other countries. When asked to speak in general about the agency he heads, Charles Sweet said in complete frankness that its main objective was to acquaint the U.S. President, the State Department, the National Security Council, and other government bodies on the reaction of the other countries to the activities of the United States so that the U.S. leadership would take these reactions into consideration when making decisions. This, however, is only one aspect of the activities of the CIA, and can only be described as political espionage, for the furtherance of which Moroccan territory will be used.

These same objectives are sought by Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, the two American stations that are well-known for their filthy activities and which are, as is known, supervised by CIA officials, with branches in Israel. HAARETZ, the Israeli paper, has openly said that all the news carried by the Voice of America, Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty on the Middle East is prepared by Israel. This means that the information media are placed under the disposal fo Tel Aviv for carrying subversive activity through false news. We must not forget also that the officials of these radios work also in gathering espionage information. There are numerous examples and lead to one conclusion: The organization of the political, economic, and ideological activity and the setting up of centers for the American intelligence media throughout the world constitutes only one aspect of U.S. foreign policy.

It is noteworthy that when American intelligence (?officials) are caught, Washington gets angrier over what it calls the violation of human rights. We do not believe that such tactics will deceive anyone.

U.S. REPORT ON C. AMERICAN POLICY CRITICIZED

PM281306 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 26 Mar 85 p 3

[TASS correspondent M. Beglov dispatch: "Base Falsification"]

[Text] Washington, 25 Mar -- The Reagan administration has made another clumsy attempt to disinform the American and international public. The State Department and the Pentagon have published a joint report under the tendentious title "Soviet-Cuban Links With Central America and the Caribbean." This work is a repetition and rehash of various kinds of slanderous allegations -- repeatedly refuted by the world press and by well-known public figures and politicians from the United States and other countries -- about some kind of "communist interference" in Central American and Caribbean affairs.

This fact has even been admitted by administration spokesmen, who confirmed to journalists that the report "contains nothing new."

The authors are again at pains to prove that it is the "outside interference" they themselves have dreamed up, rather than the widespread poverty, oppression, violent landowning oligarchies and U.S. corporations, and the harsh repression by bloody U.S.-backed regimes, which is the main reason for the national liberation movements enveloping a number of Central and Latin American countries. The State Department and Pentagon pen-pushers unblushingly describe the reactionary regimes in the region, the Salvadoran regime, for instance, as "democracies," and all supporters of genuine democracy as "terrorists" and "agents of Moscow." That, for instance, is why, the report's authors maintain, the intervention against independent Grenada was "justified."

The main aim of this base falsification is to prove the "need" for a further buildup of U.S. military interference in Central America. On the one hand, this interference is aimed at keeping in power the Salvadoran antipeople regime, which is staggering under the blows of the country's patriots, and, on the other hand, it is aimed at ousting the legitimate Nicaraguan Govenrment, which does not suit the United States. Thus White House spokesman L. Speakes admitted that the report is part and parcel of the campaign to pressure Congress to secure its approval of the administration's request to allocate 14 million dollars to support the "contras."

It is worth noting that the allegations contained in this work are so groundless that, in order to explain them, administration spokesmen have had to immediately hold two press conferences at which they tried in vain to "argue" the case for their false accusations against the USSR, Cuba, and Nicaragua.

U.S. TO DEPLOY TANKS NEAR NICARAGUAN BORDER

LD280053 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 27 Mar 85

[From the "Vremya" newscast; talk by Vitaliy Kobysh]

[Text] According to reports reaching Managua, the first batch of U.S. tanks and other military equipment has been unloaded in the Honduran port of San Lorenzo. It has become known that, under the guise of routine exercises, the Pentagon intends to deploy tank strike units in the next few days a few kilometers from Nicaragua's northern border. Over to Vitaliy Kobysh, the journalist:

Hello, comrades. As you know, matters are taking a very bad and dangerous turn, and this affair immediately followed U.S. President Reagan's speech of 25 March. At a meeting with representatives of so-called public organizations from Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, and other countries friendly to the United States -- incidentally, the friends were conveyed to Washington from Miami by a special plane -- Reagan delivered a higly unusual statement, unusual in its frankness even for the United States with its great experience of intervention in the internal affairs of the Latin American countries, and of terror and violence. Reagan stated openly that the United States has set itself the task of overthrowing the Sandinist government of Nicaragua. He called the Somozists, those criminals and murderers, true revolutionaries, and declared, concerning Washington's plans regarding Nicaragua: With our help, democracy can and will be restored.

Now the United States will begin deploying tank units near the Nicaraguan border. Accordingly, it intends to implement its ideas of democracy. This democracy is backed up by the transfer of troops -- not of mercenaries this time -- but regular U.S. troops, camoflaged at times, it is true, as engineering units, to the territory of Honduras and Costa Rica.

In particular, the appearance of sub-units of U.S. Green Berets on the slopes of the Costa Rican volcano (Rincon de la Vieja). They are preparing for something; they have an aim in view.

The situation is serious, and the free people of Nicaragua fully realize this. Despite the fact that the Washington leaders are trying every avenue to box in free Nicaragua and to stifle it, whether by military, economic, or any other means, Nicaraguans are filled with resolve to uphold their freedom, their revolution; in this struggle they are not alone. On their side is the broad support of the world public, and, above all, that of the peoples of the Latin American countries themselves. Each of them know that to fail to defend Nicaragua is to betray one's own country, and that by besetting Nicaragua on every hand the so-called Democrats from the White House and other Washington departments are attacking them too, attacking every Latin American nation wanting to be master in its own house.

At this point Washington should make no mistake about one thing at least: A direct attack on Nicaragua will have the most serious consequences for the United States itself. The hottest heads in Washington should not forget Vietnam.

U.S. TRIES TO DRAW OAS INTO NICARAGUAN CONFLICT

LD290338 Moscow TASS in English 1818 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Moscow March 28 TASS -- TASS commentator Ruslan Knyazev writes:

Addressing a meeting of the permanent council of the Organization of American States, William Middendorf, the U.S. representative to that regional organization, demanded that the question be examined of what he described as "conformity of actions by the Sandinist government with the Charter of the Organization of American States". The Washington administration is trying to draw the Organization of American States into its undeclared war against Nicaragua and thus internationalise the conflict.

The history of the recent decades gives many an example of crude United States interference in the home affairs of Latin American states under cover of the flag of the Organization of American States. Suffice it to recall the overthrow of Guatemala's democratic government in 1954, armed intervention in the Dominican Republic in 1965, the decision on breaking off diplomatic relations with Cuba by the countries of the region, which was taken by the Organization of American States in the early sixties to the dictation of the U.S. State Department. Apparently, Washington would be willing to use the same methods now in order to picture its aggression against Nicaragua as a "collective action" by the countries of the Western Hemisphere.

But times change, and nowadays the Organization of American States no longer wishes to be an obedient tool of United States diplomacy. As has been shown by the course of the debate at the permanent council of the Organization of American States, this time only such pro-American regimes as the Salvadoran and Honduran ones plus the puppets of the United States occupationists in Grenada supported their Washington masters. Representatives of other member countries of the Organization of American States at the council evaluated with good reason the statement by the United States delegate as an attempt at undermining the efforts of the Contadora Group for a quest for a political settlement of the Central American crisis. Washington has actually exposed itself as an enemy of the Contadora process, as a state kindling war in the region. At the same time an overwhelming majority of the Latin American states has again reaffirmed their full solidarity with the peaceful efforts of the Contadora countries. The White House, which is seeking support for its anti-Nicaraguan actions, has, as a matter of fact, found itself in political isolation.

PRC NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS OPENS 27 MAR

PM291028 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Mar 85 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "NPC Session in Beijing"]

[Text] Beijing, 28 Mar -- The third session of the Chinese National People's Congress [NPC], sixth convocation, opened here yesterday at the Hall of People's Congresses.

The session, which is attended by 2,712 deputies, was opened by Peng Zhen, chairman of the NCP Standing Committee. Today's session was attended by Hu Yaobang, Li Xiannian, Deng Yingchao, Ulanhu, and other leading Chinese figures.

Zhao Ziyang, premier of the PRC State Council, read a report on the government's work. He dwelt mainly on the current economic situation in the country and the progress of the reform of the economic system.

Reports on the draft plan for the PRC's national economic and social development in 1985 and the execution of the 1984 state budget are on the NPC session's agenda. The NPC deputies will examine and approve the plan and the country's 1985 state budget.

The session will also examine the joint declaration by the Governments of the PRC and Britain on Xianggang (Hong Kong) submitted by the PRC State Council, a draft resolution on granting the PRC State Council powers to elaborate provisional regulations in the sphere of transforming the economic system and expanding ties with the outside world, and a number of other laws and resolutions.

CPC RESOLUTION ON SCIENTIFIC REFORM NOTED

PM281535 Moscow TRUD in Russian 28 Mar 85 p 1

[TASS report: "CPC Central Committee Resolution"]

[Text] Beijing, 27 Mar -- The Chinese press has published a CPC Central Committee resolution on reforming the system of management of the sphere of science and technology in the PRC. It says that the aim of the reform is to accelerate the introduction of scientific and technical achievements into production, on which, as the resolution stresses, the implementation of the modernization program as a whole depends. It notes that the present system of management of the development of science and technology has major flaws. In order to eliminate them, it is necessary to change the procedure for financing scientific research work, promote the pooling of efforts of scientific institutions, VUZes, and enterprises, create the conditions for the rational deployment of scientific worker cadres, and make use of economic levers.

The resolution points out in particular that technical achievements are "goods in their own right, existing in the form of knowledge," and that therefore a technical market should be created as an integral part of the "unified socialist commodity market." "This will make it possible," the document says, "to facilitate the transfer of technological achievements to the production sphere, abandoning the practice of their free handover by means of purely administrative measures."

LIGACHEV RECEIVES VISITING MPRP OFFICIALS

PM281412 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Mar 85 First Edition p 4

[TASS report under general heading "Interparty Ties"]

[Text] In accordance with the plan for interparty ties between the CPSU and the MPRP, a delegation of MPRP party workers headed by M. Dash, secretary of the MPRP Central Committee, was in the Soviet Union 19-26 March.

The Mongolian friends acquainted themselves with the experience of leadership of agriculture by CPSU party organizations, the activity of agro-industrial associations to fulfill the food program, and the work of agricultural enterprises and scientific institutions in Moscow and Saratov Oblasts. They had meetings and conversations at the CPSU Central Committee Agriculture and Food Industry Department and at the USSR Ministry of Agriculture. The delegation was received by Ye.K. Ligachev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. A warm and friendly conversation took place in which V.A. Karlov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and chief of the CPSU Central Committee Agriculture and Food Industry Department, and T. Curbadam, Mongolian ambassador to the USSR, took part.

USSR, MONGOLIAN FOREIGN TRADE OFFICIALS MEET

PM271543 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Mar 85 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Exchange of Opinions"]

[Text] On 25 March, M.A. Sergeychik, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, had a conversation with P. Ochirbat, chairman of the Mongolian State Committee for Economic Relations Abroad. There was an exchange of opinions on questions relating to the state and further development of Soviet-Mongolian economic and technical cooperation.

ATTACHE AT EMBASSY IN MONGOLIA DIES 'TRAGICALLY'

PM281435 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 27 Mar 85 p 4

[Obituary: "To a Comrade's Memory"]

[Text] The life of Nikolay Yegorovich Nikitin, attache at the USSR Embassy in Mongolia has been tragically cut short.

Nikolay Nikitin was born 31 March 1945. After graduating from a geological prospecting institute, he worked as mine foreman in Gorlovka, Donetsk Oblast. He was elected second secretary of Gorlovka City's Nikitovskiy Ukrainian Komsomol Raykom, and second, then first, secretary of Gorlovka Komsomol Gorkom. In 1973 he was promoted to work in the Komsomol Central Committee apparatus, where he worked as an instructor, then as organizer in charge of the Komsomol Organs Department. Working in Mongolia since 1981, he took an active part in strengthening friendship and cooperation between the Lenin Komsomol and the Mongolian Revolutionary Youth League.

His abilities as an organizer, his industriousness, principledness, and sincere generosity attracted young people to him, and he enjoyed the love and respect of his comrades.

We will always retain the radiant memory of Nikolay Yegorovich Nikitin in our hearts.

Group of Comrades

PRAVDA REPORTS DRA CRITICISM OF REAGAN REMARKS

PM281304 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Mar 85 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Statement by the DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs"]

[Text] Kabul, 26 Mar -- The DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a statement in connection with the provocative clamor created by the Reagan administration around its proclamation of the so-called "Afghanistan Day." The document emphasizes that, by arrogating to himself some kind of right to proclaim such "days," the U.S. President has once more openly demonstrated hostility toward revolutionary Afghanistan. Holding forth on human rights in the DRA and the difficult conditions of Afghan refugees abroad, the President praised the bandits and murderers sowing death and destruction on Afghan soil and encouraged the continuation of killing and plunder. The White House chief went as far as to say that things were fine in Afghanistan before, in other words before the revolution, when the corrupt feudal regime ruled the country and the people were deprived of the most elementary rights and languished under conditions of starvation, poverty, and disease. He also attempted to distort the essence of the internationalist assistance given to the Afghan people by their traditional and sincere friend, the Soviet Union.

The purpose of this declaration, the DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs concludes, is clear: to justify the continuation of the undeclared war against the Afghan people and to try to return Afghanistan to the dark past in order to restore imperialism's positions and privileges there. This, however, will not come to pass.

The Afghan people are confidently marching along the path of ensuring conditions for the broad exercise of the rights and freedoms enshrined in the Republic's progressive legislation, deepening the revolutionary process, and totally destroying the criminal gangs sent onto DRA territory.

The DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Afghan people perceive Reagan's slanderous remarks as open and impermissible interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs and resolutely condemn them. Despite the undeclared war waged by imperialism and reaction, free, independent, and nonaligned Afghanistan will firmly march along the path of the national democratic revolution and of building the new society.

'PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE' AGAINST DRA VIEWED

PM281513 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Mar 85 Second Edition p 6

[V. Snegirev article: "Salvoes of Slander: How 'Psychological Warfare' Is Waged on Afghanistan"]

[Text] Under the bright television lights the spy felt uncomfortable. His head was bowed low and persipiration stood out on his brow. Having agreed, for a good fee, to fulfill missions in Afghanistan for Pakistani intelligence, (Zulfikar Khaydar), a Pershawar student who had not completed his course, was not answering for his crimes. Among other espionage and sabotage missions, he had one specific task: to find out how effective the broadcasts of the Voice of America and the BBC are in Afghanistan. The disastrous mission of the unlucky agent shows clearly who is controlling the fierce propaganda war against the Afghan people.

Afghanistan's enemies began to carry out ideological subversion immediately after the victory of the April Revolution in 1978, exploiting the population's profoundly religious nature and almost universal illiteracy.

The salvoes of disinformation and slander are directed first and foremost against the masses of peasants and nomads who make up a large part of the country's population, and the urban poor. The "psychological warfare" strategists are well aware that the outcome of the struggle for the revolution's future depends largely on which side the broad masses of the people take. That is why they try day and night to poison the Afghans with the venom of distrust, turn people away from democratic power, and sow fear and uncertainty in their souls.

The KABUL NEW TIMES newspaper called the "psychological warfare" against Afghanistan "one of the largest-scale CIA operations in recent years." It is taking place with the help of the CIA's empire of mass information media, is of a systematic nature, and is costing the United States millions of dollars. More than 50 foreign radio stations broadcast in the languages of Afghanistan's peoples. In the last 5 years, the total volume of broadcasts has increased dozens of times over, and is now around 200 hours a week. They gamble particularly on radio propaganda, taking account of the fact that transistor receivers are widespread among the Afghan population. From Pakistani territory, the airwaves are poisoned by Radio Free Kabul, set up by the Americans, which has 11 stationary transmitters located along the Afghan-Pakistani border. As the CHRISTIAN SOCIENCE MONITOR reported, this slanderous radio center is already relaying subversive broadcasts. According to the newspaper, its announcers mainly consist of the ringleaders of bandit groupings.

The Voice of America broadcasts in the Dari and Pashto languages for 6 and 1/2 hours a day each, and in accordance with the plans for the modernization which has begun, this radio station, as C. Wick, director of the U.S. Information Agency stated recently, intends to "take its information more effectively" to listeners in Afghanistan.

The construction of powerful retransmitters for the subversive Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe has begun in Pakistan. They will broadcast to Afghanistan in local languages.

A significant role is assigned to Pakistan in carrying out ideological aggression. Eight radio stations transmit hostile propaganda from there in the languages of Afghanistan's peoples. "Mobile information centers" have been set up in Lahore and Peshawar, whose main task, as the Indian magazine LINK points out, is to fabricate slanderous materials about events in Afghanistan.

"The Western mass media are spreading fables about Afghanistan," (Daud Kavian), vice president of the BAKHTAR news agency, stated. "There is only one word for such reports -- lies."

Islamabad is helping the Afghan counterrevolutionaries to print huge editions of pamphlets, newspapers, magazines, and books intended for dissemination in Afghanistan. With the military regime's help, a large printing enterprise was opened recently for the dushmans in the North-West Frontier Province, producing printed matter in several languages.

The organizational structure of the main counterrevolutionary organizations includes special agitation and propaganda services consisting of leadership centers, printing plants, and radio stations with people whose task is to collect and process information. More than 70 newspapers, magazines, and bulletins are published. The "Islamic Party of Afghanistan" (IPA) alone, which is headed by Gulbuddin, produces five newspapers, several magazines, books, and pamphlets, and uses mobile radio stations, portable sound equipment, and sophisticated duplicating machinery.

The printed matter produced by the counterrevolutionaries is full of inventions and slander. Thus the IPA once stated that "The Russians came to Afghanistan because their own country was conquered by the Chinese." There is no need to comment on such "pearls.' But it must be borne in mind that even such idiocies are sometimes taken on trust by uneducated people.

At secret caches seized by the Republic's Armed Forces, alongside heaps of weapons and ammunition, mountains of subversive materials can be seen. A stream of "literature" of a special kind has recently been pouring in from across the border -- manuals and textbooks similar to the notorious CIA textbook for "psychological warfare" for Nicaraguan bandits. The authors of these little books do not even try to disguise their contents: They teach how best to kill, bomb, burn, mine, poison, and sabotage.

To deceive people by unleashing an avalanche of slander on them and to make the Afghans blind executors of the reactionary forces' designs -- that is what those who wage "psychological warfare" against Afghanistan seek.

BANGLADESH'S INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATED

Public Soiree Held

PM271551 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Mar 85 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Public Soiree"]

[Text] A public soiree was held in Moscow on 25 March to celebrate the national holiday of the People's Republic of Bangladesh -- Independence Day.

The soiree was attended by S.N. Hashim, Bangladesh ambassador to the USSR, and K. Choudhri, president of the "Bangladesh-USSR" Friendship Society.

Envoy Hosts Reception

PM281658 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Mar 85 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "On the National Holiday"]

[Text] S.N. Hashim, Bangladesh ambassador to the Soviet Union, held a reception 26 March to mark the national holiday -- Independence Day.

T.N. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and other officials attended.

IMPORTANCE OF NEW SRV WITHDRAWAL FROM PRK ANALYZED

LD281745 Moscow TASS in English 1717 GMT 28 Mar 85

["A Constructive Position" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow March 28 TASS -- TASS commentator Vasiliy Kharkov writes:

The just announced joint decision of Vietnam and Kampuchea on a new withdrawal shortly of a part of the Vietnamese volunteers from Kampuchea is a step of great political importance. It is evidence of the good will and sincere striving of the Indochinese states to normalise the situation in the region, to conduct a dialogue with the neighbouring ASEAN countries.

The Vietnamese volunteers, as it has been repeatedly pointed out, are staying in Kampuchea at the request of the PRK Government to give internationalist assistance to the Kampuchean people in building and protecting the new life, in ensuring the country's security and territorial integrity. Their presence accords with the cardinal interests of the Kampuchean people and fully accords with the principles of the United Nations Organisation and the Non-Aligned Movement that proclaim the right of sovereign states in the interests of self-defence to seek the assistance of other countries.

In the past too Vietnamese volunteers fought side to side with the armed formations of the Kampuchean people in the struggle against the colonialists and interventionists. And the moment the aggressors were routed they left the territory of Kampuchea. And this time, too, as it was stressed, all the Vietnamese volunteers will be withdrawn from Kampuchea as soon as the threat to its territorial integrity and security disappears, as soon as assistance will be fully stopped to the Pol-Potists and other Khmer reactionaries who use Thai territory for bandit operations against the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

And although this has not yet been reached, although external forces are trying in every way to impede the process of the PRK's national rebirth, year after year there is a partial withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteers from Kampuchea. The announced forthcoming withdrawal is the fourth since 1982. This is a vivid confirmation of the strengthening of people's power in Kampuchea which is quickly healing the serious wounds inflicted by the regime of genocide and is confidently advancing. The young Republic's prestige is growing as well.

The weightiness of the successes achieved by the Kampuchean people is seen particularly well against the background of the hostile actions by external forces against the PRK. While talking about "humanism" they pursue a policy directed at bringing back to Kampuchea the Pol-Potist hangmen who are guilty of the death of more than three million Kampucheans. Having thrown aside its own camouflage, Washington is preparing to give direct military support to the Khmer reactionaries. A subcommittee for Asian and Pacific Affairs of the American Congress recently voted to allocate five million dollars for these purposes in 1986. A parallel is being drawn with American aid to the Afghan counter-revolutionaries. At the same time attempts are being continued to aggravate confrontation between ASEAN countries and their neighbours in Indochina.

A simple comparison of facts shows that it is exactly external forces that are whipping up tension in Southeast Asia in an attempt to prevent it from becoming a zone of peace, stability and cooperation.

FURTHER ON ROMANOV ACTIVITIES IN HUNGARY

Addresses Videoton Aktiv

PM281555 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Mar 85 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Meeting With Hungarian Workers"]

[Text] Szekesfehervar, 27 Mar -- Today the CPSU delegation led by G.V. Romanov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, which is taking part in work of the 13th MSZMP Congress, visited the "Videoton" radio-Electronics and Computer Equipment Plant here, which is a leader of the Hungarian electronics industry. This well-known enterprise takes an active part in implementing the comprehensive program of socialist economic integration by supplying computer equipment to virtually all the CEMA countries.

The Soviet guests visited the plant's production shops, looked at samples of the products it manufactures, and talked to workers and engineers. In the party committee I. Papp, director general of "Videoton," and G. Horvath, secretary of the party organization, described the labor activity of the enterprise which produces a broad range of goods including mini- and microcomputers and peripherals. The plant supplies a considerable proportion of its products to the Soviet Union on the basis of specialization production sharing.

A cordial meeting was held between the delegation and the party economic aktiv. Opening it, G. Knizse, secretary of the Fejer Province MSZMP Committee, cordially greeted the Soviet Union's representatives. Soviet-Hungarian friendship, he said, is constantly deepening and is an important stimulus to Hungary's steady advance along the path of socialist building. At present the Hungarian people are preparing to solemnly celebrate the 40th anniversary of the country's liberation from the fascist aggressors by the Soviet Army. This event was a historic turning point in Hungary's destiny. All along its postwar path, our country has always felt the support of the fraternal Soviet Union.

Addressing the plant's activists, G.V. Romanov, head of the CPSU delegation, cordially thanked the workers and the enterprise's entire collective for the fervent reception and warm words addressed to the Soviet Communist Party and people. We have come to your plant, he said, during the period of work of the 13th MSZMP Congress. The CPSU delegation is greatly impressed by the realistic and at the same time militant atmosphere of the congress, by the meetings we have had, and particularly by the warm conversation with Comrade J. Kadar.

The theme of the unity and cohesion of the socialist community, international solidarity, and the unbreakable friendship among our parties, peoples, and states has been heard with full force at the congress. This is our great treasure. I would like to stress that your collective is strengthening it by its weighty contribution to the common cause.

The history of "Videoton" largely reflects the tremendous changes which have occurred in People's Hungary during the years of socialist development. It is also inextricably linked with the development of Soviet-Hungarian relations, including economic cooperation.

Today the "Videoton" make is well known in the Soviet Union. The computer systems you manufacture help to automate control of oil extraction, accelerate freightcar sorting, and distribute energy in a more rational way. The workers of fraternal Hungary are interested most directly in the successes of these any many other sectors of the Soviet national economy.

Taking an active part in scientific and technical cooperation with Soviet enterprises, the "Videoton" collective provides a striking and convincing example of how specialization and production sharing help us to jointly accelerate the development of the economy and to advance scientific and technical progress.

The more broadly and closely these kind of links develop, the greater reciprocal benefit the peoples of the Soviet Union and Hungary will obtain, especially now that life itself is setting our countries such crucial tasks as reaching the most advanced targets in labor productivity and scientific-technical progress and substantially improving output quality and boosting its competitiveness.

G.V. Romanov went on to describe the life and work of Soviet people. He noted that positive changes have recently been seen in many sectors of the national economy: in industry, the agro-industrial complex, and the implementation of social programs. This in turn is having a favorable effect on the people's living conditions and their attitude to their affairs.

It seems that such simple things such as strengthening organization, discipline, and order have played a considerable role here. These measures, which have received working people's supports, are producing real returns.

Pursuing a line of accelerating the country's economic and social development and improving all aspects of society's life, the CPSU is striving -- the delegation head continued -- to set in motion all the levers and reserves that lie in socialism. Improvement of the management system occupies an important place among them.

It is with this aim in view that the broad economic experiment is being carried out, with several thousand enterprises and associations taking part. This boils down essentially to expanding enterprises' independence in shaping plans and expanding their opportunities for resolving questions of production development, retooling, and labor incentives at the same time as strengthening centralized management.

In other words, labor collectives obtain additional economic and organizational levers to demonstrate socialist enterprise and initiative; and precisely and only socialist enterprise and initiative.

The framework of another experiment, aimed at improving the pay of designers and technologists, is expanding. It must be said that the experiment shows that these measures are producing positive results.

As Lenin taught, party, Soviet, and economic organs are attentively studying and disseminating the experience that is born in the heart of the masses and at local level. Thanks to this the practice of certifying jobs and team contract methods are being introduced on an increasingly broad scale. In the work to improve production efficiency we are also carefully studying the experience of our friends, especially the Hungarians.

The efforts being made by the party and state on the economic front, as you well understand, are not an end in themselves, G.V. Romanov went on to say. The CPSU sees the supreme point of improving social production efficiency in the satisfaction of people's needs, both material and spiritual.

We do not flatter ourselves with what has been achieved and we understand that we have shortcomings and in some ways are still lagging behind. The party, as M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, noted at the Extraordinary Central Committee (March) Plenum, will steadfastly pursue the social policy it has elaborated. Everything for the sake of man, for the good of man -- that is the credo of our Leninist party. It has been guided and will continue to be guided by this.

In resolving complex creative tasks, we are naturally taking account of the international situation in a comprehensive way. As is known, it is very complex and tense. The aggressive forces of imperialism, primarily U.S. imperialism, have made new attempts in recent years to turn back the course of historical development, secure military superiority, and dictate their own will to the socialist countries.

But we communists have strong nerves. We have one thing to say to those who are trying to use the language of threats with us: Just try! Our position and the position of the fraternal countries is clear and simple: We do not want an arms race, we want to halt it, we advocate not confrontation but the resolution of disputes by means of talks, but honest and equitable talks.

The Soviet people remember and will never forget what a terrible calamity war is. The upcoming 40th anniversary of the great victory over Hitlerite fascism prompts us to struggle even more vigorously against the military threat and for world peace.

To achieve this great aim, the Soviet Union and the socialist community countries will spare neither efforts nor energy!

Everything we have seen and everything we have heard during our stay in your splendid country, the CPSU delegation head noted, inspires in us confidence that the Hungarian people -- under the tried and tested leadership of the MSZMP -- will continue to confidently follow the path started 40 years ago.

In conclusion C.V. Romanov expressed the firm conviction that the CPSU and the MSZMP and working people of the Soviet Union and Hungary will continue to cherish and develop Soviet-Hungarian friendship, which was sealed by the trials of history and will live forever. The CPSU delegation presented the collective with a portrait of V.I. Lenin to commemorate its visit to the enterprise.

The CPSU delegation toured the city and laid flowers at the monument to the Soviet fighters who fell in the battles to liberate Fejer Province from the fascist aggressors.

Attends MSZMP Reception

LD282125 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1845 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Budapest, 28 Mar (TASS) -- The Central Committee and the Central Control Commission of the MSZMP gave a reception today in honor of the foreign guests at the 13th MSZMP Congress.

Present at the reception were MSZMP General Secretary Janos Kadar, members of the Politburo and secretaries of the Central Committee of the MSZMP, members of the Central Committee and the Central Control Commission of the MSZMP.

The reception was attended by the CPSU delegation, headed by Grigoriy Romanov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and delegations of other communist and workers' parties, revolutionary-democratic parties and national liberation movements.

KADAR REELECTED MSZMP SECRETARY GENERAL

LD281732 Moscow TASS in English 1648 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Budapest March 28 TASS -- Janos Kadar was elected secretary general of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party at a plenary meeting of the newly elected Central Committee of the HSWP here today.

Karoly Nemeth was elected deputy secretary general of the party.

ROMANIA'S CEAUSESCU ADDRESSES PARTY PLENUM

PM291020 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Mar 85 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Plenum Held"]

[Text] Bucharest March 28 TASS -- A communique on the plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party, held on March 26-27, has been published here.

The plenum discussed and approved a program of measures to carry out the country's social and economic development plan for the current year as well as a report on the international activities of the Romanian Communist Party and the Socialist Republic of Romania in 1984 and the basic foreign policy guidelines for this year. Other matters were also discussed.

The plenum was addressed by the general secretary of the party, Nicolae Ceausescu. Touching on certain international problems, he said specifically that Romania attaches great importance to the development of its relations with other socialist countries and implementation of the decusions of the CEMA summit economic conference.

Nicolae Ceausescu stressed that on the basis of the accords reached during summit talks in June 1984 and his recent meeting with General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow, the two sides signed joint Soviet-Romanian documents on the further development of trade and economic cooperation between Romania and the Soviet Union in 1986-1990.

These documents, he noted, ensure good long-term prospects for the expansion of cooperation between Romania and the Soviet Union. This cooperation is very important not only economically, but also for the general development of relations between the two parties and countries. It accords with the Romanian Communist Party's general line aimed at the steady development of relations with the Soviet Union and all socialist countries.

It was pointed out at the 13th Congress of the Romanian Communist Party, Nicolae Ceausescu said, that we come out for the prolongation of the Warsaw Pact. Joint agreement was reached in this respect.

Ceausescu Reelected

LD291008 Moscow TASS in English 0942 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] Bucharest March 29 TASS -- Nicolae Ceausescu, general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party and chairman of the Democracy and Socialist Unity Front of the Socialist Republic of Romania, was re-elected president of the SRR. The decision was taken unanimously today at a session of the Grand National Assembly of Romania, which is under way here.

TOLKUNOV RECEIVES SFRY VETERANS DELEGATION

LD290630 Moscow in Serbo-Croatian to Yugoslavia 1700 GMT 27 Mar 85

[Text] Lev Tolkunov, chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet, today received the SUBNOR [Federation of Veterans' Associations of Yugoslavia] delegation headed by Ilija Djukic, delegate in the SFRY assembly and president of the Presidium of the SUBNOR Federal Board. The delegation is visiting our country at the invitation of the Soviet War Veterans Committee. During the friendly talks, Comrade Tolkunov informed his guests about the structure and activity of the USSR Supreme Soviet, the Soviet people's preparations to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the victory over fascism, and about the Soviet state's peaceful foreign policy initiatives. The talks were also attended by the chairman of the Soviet War Veterans Committee, Zheltov, and the SFRY ambassador in the Soviet Union, Drulovic.

KULIKOV ARRIVES FOR GDANSK LIBERATION ANNIVERSARY

LD291235 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 0600 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] Marshal of the Soviet Union Viktor Kulikov, commander in chief of the Warsaw Pact Joint Armed Forces, has arrived in the tri-city for celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of the liberation of Gdansk.

FURTHER ON VISIT BY FRG BUNDESRAT PRESIDENT

Received by Vorotnikov

LD280058 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 27 Mar 85

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Comrade Vorotnikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, received Spaeth, president of the FRG Bundesrat, prime minister of the Baden-Wuerttemberg Land in Moscow today. A talk took place during which certain questions of relations between the two countries and the present international situation were touched upon. Present at the talk with Kastl, FRG ambassador to the USSR.

Talks With Shcherbitskiy

LD282308 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 28 Mar 85

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Spaeth, president of the FRG Bundesrat and prime minister of the Baden-Wuerttemberg Land, arrived in the Ukrainian capital today.

Later the same day he was received by Comrade Shcherbitskiy. A conversation was held, during which the visitors' attention was drawn to the USSR initiatives that are directed at achieving accords on the immediate cessation of the arms race on earth, especially the nuclear arms race, and at averting the militarization of outer space.

The president of the FRG Bundesrat noted his country is desire to help develop the process of detente and strengthen international security. The conversation was attended by Kastl, FRG ambassador to the USSR. The visitor had a meeting at the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Baden-Wuerttemberg Exhibit

PM261129 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Mar 85 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report under general heading "Official Reports"]

[Text] On 23 March L. Spaeth, [president of the FRG Bundesrat] visited the exhibition "Industry and Technology of the FRG Land Baden-Wuerttemberg." The exhibition shows the production of machine tools and instruments, electronics, automobiles, agricultural machinery, and equipment for the food and light industry. The FRG guest was accompanied on his inspection by A.K. Antonov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

FRG'S SCHMIDT CITED ON U.S. SPACE PLANS

LD261548 Moscow TASS in English 1102 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Bonn March 26 TASS — The development of space weapons by the USA could lead to a fresh escalation of international tension, former West German Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt stated. Talking to British scientists and politicians in London, where he is on a visit, Helmut Schmidt pointed out the need for European countries to produce joint political initiatives to block their participation in the American plans to militarise space, the DPA news agency reports.

WEINBERGER IN FRANCE; TO MEET WITH MITTERRAND

LD281427 Moscow TASS in English 2247 GMT 27 Mar 85

[Text] Paris March 27 TASS -- U.S. Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger has arrived here for a three-day official visit at the invitation of Charles Hernu, French minister of defence.

Today he will be received by President Francois Mitterrand of France and will meet with Defense Minister Charles Hernu and Roland Dumas, minister for external relations.

Weinberger's visit to France is part of his European tour during which Washington intends by way of pressure on West European countries to secure West European allies' accession to the U.S. "star wars" plans. When discussing the question of bilateral cooperation in the field of conventional arms, the head of the Pentagon is expected to insist on the acquisition of U.S. "AWACS" radar planes for France. Their cost is to be partly compensated by a U.S. purchase of the French automated communications system "RITA".

PCF POLITICAL BUREAU STATEMENT RELEASED

LD221820 Moscow TASS in English 1512 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Paris March 22 TASS -- A statement of the Political Bureau of the French Communist Party has been issued here. It analyzes the results of the cantonal elections which were held in France.

The election of 140 Communists to the posts of general councillors testifies to consolidation of the party's positions, it is said in the document. One witnesses a greater share of votes which were cast for the French Communist Party by electors as compared with elections to European parliaments in 1984. Mobilization of the party's supporters in the second round of voting enabled its win in a number of cantons where successes did not seem obvious in the first round.

The causes of the loss by the ruling Socialist Party of a considerable number of seats of general councillors are attributed to its concessions to the pressure of big business, the course of "tough economy", the Political Bureau of the French Communist Party believes. The statement draws the conclusion that the growth of discontent of French men and women with mounting unemployment, the heightening of other problems in the country leads not only to weakening positions of the Socialist Party but also to simultaneous consolidation of the right wing. Greater representation of right-wing parties, attained with the support of the ultra-right wing "National Front", creates conditions for holding locally the policy in the interests of capital, to the detriment of the working people.

To bar the way to the right-wing and ultra-right wing it is necessary to have broad unity of the popular masses, the document stresses. That way was shaped by the 25th Congress of the French Communist Party which set the aim to create a new majority of the people. The party intends to address all Frenchmen and women, who showed confidence in it at the elections, to join that struggle which opens up new vistas for the people of France.

EUROPEAN CP LEADERS OFFICIALS COMMENT ON USSR PLENUM

LD230032 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1500 GMT 22 Mar 85

[From "The Modern World and the Workers Movement" program, presented by Eduard Mnatsakanov; video talks by Alvaro Cunhal, Portuguese Communist Party general secretary, Alessandro Natta, Italian Communist Party general secretary, and Ignacio Gallego, Communist Party of Spain general secretary]

[Excerpt] [Begin recording by Alvaro Cunhal, general secretary of the Portuguese Communist Party, in Portuguese with superimposed Russian translation] We studied with great attention and interest the materials of the special plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and Comrade Gorbachev's speech. The CPSU Central Committee Plenum has clearly testified to the consistent nature and the continuity of the domestic and foreign policy of the party and the Soviet state. The Soviet Union has once again reaffirmed that its foreign policy course is directed toward relaxation of international tension and against the arms race unleashed by the United States, and toward maintaining and consolidating peace on earth. This policy is an important and inspiring incentive for all who are fighting for their national and social independence, for the liberation of the working people from capitalist exploitation, and for building a new, just society. In their indefatigable struggle for peace and for a better future for mankind, the Soviet people may always count on the support of the Communists and all the working people of Portugal. [end recording].

[Begin recording by Alessandro Natta, general secretary of the Italian Communist Party, in Italian with superimposed Russian translation] Today, the world is going through difficult times. Through the fault of the imperialist circles, the international situation has become sharply exacerbated. That is why it is so important that the Soviet Union has countered the aggressive plans of imperialism with its peaceful foreign policy.

The special plenum of the CPSU Central Committee reaffirmed that the USSR fully realizes its responsibility for the destiny of the peoples. It spares no effort in the struggle to end the arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race, on earth, and to prevent it in outer space. Proof of this is the Soviet-American dialogue in Geneva and the USSR's peace initiatives. There is no doubt that an implementation of the Soviet proposals would be a guarantee of maintaining peace and eliminating the danger of a nuclear catastrophe. [end recording]

[Begin recording by Ignacio Gallego, general secretary of the Communist Party of Spain, in Spanish with superimposed Russian translation] The peoples of the world, including millions of Spanish people, have more than once been convinced that the sincere desire of Soviet people is for peace and progress for mankind. The firmness and persistence with which the Soviet Union implements the principles of its peace-loving policy and upholds them at international forums and meetings including the current Soviet-American meeting in Geneva on nuclear and space armaments, leaves a great impression. We are sure that the CPSU and the Soviet state, as was reaffirmed at the March plenum, will continue to devote all their efforts to the struggle for strengthening international security. [end recording]

KORNIYENKO WELCOMES IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER

LD291005 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] As agreed to by both sides, Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and minister for foreign affairs, arrived today in Moscow for a short working visit.

At the airport he was met by Comrade Korniyenko, USSR first deputy foreign minister, and other officials.

Among the welcoming party was Al-Faysal, Iraqi ambassador to the USSR.

MUBARAK INITIATIVE, PEACE PROSPECTS DISCUSSED

IZVESTIYA's Geyvandov

PM281650 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Mar 85 Morning Edition p 5

[IZVESTIYA political observer K. Geyvandov article under the rubric "Problems and Judgments": "Where These 'Initiatives' Are Leading"]

[Text] The progressive public and press of the Arab countries have condemned and rejected the "initiative" by Egyptian President H. Mubarak. It is a question of proposals by the Egyptian leader based on the agreement concluded 11 February in Amman between King Husayn of Jordan and Y. 'Arafat, which is allegedly aimed at settling the Near East crisis. Briefly, the "initiative" essentially boils down to an attempt to organize direct (read "separate" -- K.G.) U.S.-sponsored Jordanian-Israeli talks with certain Palestinians acceptable to Israel and the United States in one Jordanian delegation.

The Egyptian progovernment press has noted that the main aim of the Egyptian president's recent visit to Washington was to secure the U.S. Administration's support for this "initiative." True, this thesis was questioned by NBC TV, which reported on the eve of his arrival: "A number of administration and State Department spokesmen are expressing the opinion that the real aim of the visit by Mubarak (the Egyptian president) is not the plan for a Near East settlement, but the desire to improve relations with the United States and obtain additional economic aid."

One way or another, there was a discussion of the Near East in Washington. Its thrust can be judged from the following statement by President Mubarak in an interview with NEWSWEEK: "The West Bank was under Jordanian control; the Gaza sector belonged to Egypt. So we are the main partners in the peace process along with the Palestinians." Note that there is no mention of the PLO. Which "Palestinians" are deliberately not specified.

I think that this is what gave Secretary of State G. Shultz grounds to claim that: "There is some movement there (in the Near East). And the President is sending Ambassador Murphy." And every time the Americans have stressed the administration's unswerving adherence to the "Reagan plan." The conclusion is self-evident: The Amman agreement and the "initiative" put forward on the basis of it were seen in Washington as a clear move in the direction of the "Reagan plan," and R. Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, is going out there to bring the sides' positions into harmony. However, both the Palestine National Council, in all its convocations, and pan-Arab conferences reject the "Reagan plan" since it has nothing in common with a resolution of the key problem in a Near East settlement -- the Palestinian question. It recognizes neither Palestinian statehood, nor the PLO as the sole legitimate respresentative of the Arab people of Palestine.

During and after the talks with President H. Mubarak, U.S. Administration spokesmen invariably stressed that the question of any contacts with the PLO can be examined by Washington only if the organization obeys the long-standing U.S. ultimatum to end "terrorist" activity and first recognize the State of Israel. Israeli leaders expressed themselves even more "resolutely."

First, they virtually unconditionally rejected the Amman agreement, stating that they were prepared to hold talks only with Jordan. Second, Israeli Foreign Minister Shamir announced that Israel may offer the Palestinians autonomy on the West Bank and the Gaza sector, but it will not return this territory to Arab rule. Autonomy for the Palestinians is "the fulfillment of Resolution 242 so far as our eastern border is concerned," Shamir stated categorically. Both he and Israeli Prime Minister Peres reaffirmed their resolute refusal to have anything to do with the PLO. Therefore, from the Israeli leaders' viewpoint, it can only be a question of a "Camp David 2."

Tel Aviv's desire to perpetuate the results of Israel's aggressive policy through "talks" with Jordan -- if it is ready for them -- is wholly and fully supported by the U.S. Administration. To ensure that the Arab leaders have no doubts on this score, Washington decided to demonstrate this more graphically by means of a specific example -- by vetoing during President H. Mubarak's visit to the United States a UN Security Council resolution demanding that the Israeli military end their atrocities in south Lebanon. "This veto," K. Maqsud, Arab League permanent observer at the United Nations, rightly noted, "shows extremely eloquently how favorably inclined the United States is toward Israel precisely when the international community virtually unanimously condemns Israel's policy and actions."

Therefore I think that there is nothing surprising in the fact that many Arab leaders and public figures, criticizing and rejecting the Amman agreement and the proposals put forward on the basis of it, regard them as attempts to expand the framework of the Camp David agreements and impose on the Arab peoples a new separate agreement with Israel on the basis of the "Reagan plan." Even the first reaction to these "initiatives" from Washington and Tel Aviv shows that, as they believe over there, events will develop in precisely this direction if their authors insist on the implementation of their plans. After all, the Camp David process was rejected in the most categorical matter by the pan-Arab summit conference in Baghdad in 1978 and this decision has been reaffirmed at every subsequent forum of this type.

The danger of creating the illusion of a Near East settlement through separate deals lies not only in the fact that the Palestinian problem will be buried without ever having been justly resolved. An equal danger lies in the fact that these deals gradually emasculate the content of the Arab peoples' national liberation struggle against imperialism and Zionism, strike against progressive forces, and promote the establishment of U.S-Israeli control over the region. It is probably no accident that the U.S. journal FOREIGN AFFAIRS now recalls: "The Reagan administration has not completed its efforts aimed at creating a 'strategic consensus' among the pro-Western states in the Near East, which would include Israel and would compensate for the loss of Iran as a 'policeman' guarding the West's interests in the region." Clearly, it would surprise no one if within the framework of a "Camp David 2" deal, the U.S. Administration were to demand for itself the right to deploy units of the "Rapid Deployment Force" on the West Bank, say, as it did in Sinai.

The fact that even now, decades after the well-known UN General Assembly resolution on the partition of Palestine, there are Arab leaders who, exploiting the exacerbation of contradictions and disagreements within the PLO, try to play with the Palestinian problem as if it were small change, is extremely regrettable.

This is happening against the backdrop of numerous UN decisions in support of the legitimate national rights of the Arab people of Palestine and the principles worked out in Fes in 1982 by the Arab leaders themselves for a program of joint action, and, finally, the complex of proposals on a just, all-embracing, and lasting Near East settlement put forward by the Soviet Union 29 July 1984. All these steps were supported virtually unanimously by the international community because they envisage a really key solution of the problem and the establishment of reliable peace and security in the region on the basis of clear and tried and tested principles.

One need only mention three of them to be sure of the correctness of this. Thus, submitting to the immutable provision on the inadmissibility of seizing foreign lands through aggression, Israel must withdraw from all Arab territories occupied since 1967. The inalienable right of the Palestinian people, whose sole legitimate representative is the PLO, to self-determination and to the creation of their own independent state on the West Bank of the Jordan River and in the Gaza sector liberated from Israeli occupation must be ensured in practice. Third, the right of all states in the region to a secure and independent existence and development under the most reliable international guarantees must be really ensured.

As experience, including the sad lessons of Camp David, suggests, an all-embracing, truly just, and lasting Near East settlement can only be achieved through collective efforts with the participation of all interested parties. It is precisely for these purposes that the Soviet proposals envisage convening a special conference on the Near East and contain detailed provisions on the goals, participants, and organization of the conference's work. Its task must be to search for and find solutions to all aspects of a Near East settlement as a complex. However, it must not be turned into an instrument to rubber-stamp separate deals, as some people would like.

It would seem not to be superfluous to recall that the question of convening a representative international conference on the Near East has been approved by the United Nations, and the above principles for a Near East settlement enjoy extensive international support. In fact, the U.S. Administration and the Israeli Government are the exception. I believe that only if they align themselves with the emerging general trend can a just settlement be found for the long-standing conflict in the Near East.

NEW TIMES' Fomin

PM282037 Moscow NEW TIMES in English No 12, Mar 85 pp 22-23

[O. Fomin article: "Palestinian Rights: Two Lines"]

[Text] "All Roads Lead to an International Conference on the Middle East" was the headline of an early February leading article in the influential foreign affairs weekly Al-Mustaqbal published in Paris. The author, the weekly's chief editor Nabil Khuri, observed that a consensus was taking shape in the world in favour of the convocation of an international forum on the Middle East and voiced the hope that the U.S. would cease to be opposed to such a conference and would influence Israel accordingly. That the Soviet Union has long advocated the holding of a Middle East peace conference with the participation of all the sides concerned is common knowledge. Equally well known is it that the holding of such a conference was supported by all the Arab countries and the Palestine Liberation Organization, and was voted for by the majority of the members of the world community at the international conference on Palestine held in Geneva in 1983 and at the 38th and 39th U.N. General Assemblies. Only the U.S. and Israel were opposed to the idea.

It would thus seem that the way to the solution of the Palestine problem is perfectly obvious. However, on February 11, King Husayn of Jordan and Yasir 'Arafat saw it fit to sign in Amman an agreement on a "framework for joint action." What does this document offer?

The Arab national patriotic forces in general note that the Amman understandings ignore the two basic principles on which the position of the PLO has always been pivoted: the equal participation of the PLO in a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. The Amman agreement substitutes for these principles the participation in talks on a Middle East settlement of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the formation of a Jordan-Palestine confederation without any clear-cut mention of the Palestinian people's right to their own statehood. Anti-imperialist quarters in the Arab East stress that the principle of "exchange of territory for peace" set forth in Point 1 of the Amman document essentially signifies repudiation of the view that the Palestine problem lies at the heart of any Middle East settlement.

The Arab states that take an anti-imperialist stand and eight of the ten organizations comprising the Palestine resistance movement have condemned the Amman agreement. It has also been criticized by some members of the leadership of the Fatah to which Yasir 'Arafat belongs, notably by Faruq Qaddumi, the head of the PLO Political Department.

Commenting on the agreement between King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat,' Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary-general of the Central Committee of the Yemen Socialist Party and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, stressed that it was a departure from decisions of conferences of the heads of Arab states, including the Fes summit, and resolutions of the Palestine National Council. It cancels out all the efforts made to preserve the unity of the PLO. A conference of the communist and workers' parties of the Arab East held in Damascus noted that, while paying lip service to "talks under the aegis of an international conference," the Amman document signifies consent to separate direct talks as in the case of the Camp David compact.

As could have been expected, official Washington has taken a favorable view of the Amman agreement. The U.S. President has described it as the first sign of progress since the Reagan plan was advanced in 1982 and voiced optimism as to the outlook. At the same time he once again declared against the convocation of an international conference on the Middle East. The patriotic Arab press has observed that by encouraging the emergence of documents such as the "framework for joint action," the U.S. Administration is out to revive Camp David through the agency of the Arabs themselves, to force them to enter into separate deals with Israel and to deprive them of the support of their tried and tested friend, the Soviet Union.

The Amman agreement has been welcomed in Egyptian, Moroccan, and Saudi Arabian official quarters. In Cairo it was announced that the Egyptian leadership "highly evaluates the agreement as the first step the Arabs have to take to give the needed impulse to the peace process in the region."

In view of the Soviet Union's high prestige as an advocate of a just Middle East settlement, some right-wing Arab leaders and information media have engaged in speculation to the effect that the Soviet peace programme for the Middle East has points of contact with the "framework for joint action." The fact is, however, that the contention of the supporters of the Amman agreement that its basic provisions do not run counter to the Soviet Union's proposals for a Middle East settlement is groundless. Its object is to mislead Arab and world public opinion.

The Soviet proposals of July 29, 1984, clearly declare that there can be no Middle East settlement without the solution of the Palestinian problem. Contrary to the Amman document, these proposals make it plain that the PLO must be an equal participant in all talks as the sole lawful spokesman of the Palestinian people, that the right of the Palestinians to establish their own independent state on the Palestinian lands to be freed from Israeli occupation must be ensured in practice.

On February 24 President Husni Mubarak of Egypt told THE NEW YORK TIMES that he supported the idea of a joint delegation of Jordanians and moderate Palestinians -- not necessarily representatives of the PLO -- for direct talks with Israel. The U.S. ABC radio and television corporation appraised this as a return to the Camp David formula. Shortly afterwards, the Egyptian president refuted the reports of "some radio stations to the effect that he was ruling out the participation of PLO members in a joint delegation." To clarify his position, he said that he visualized three stages in the future talks: a dialogue between a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the U.S., a wider dialogue taking in Israel and other sides, and an international conference with the participation of all sides concerned as well as the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

The Egyptian leader's proposals, styled in the West as the "Mubarak initiative," evoked a negative reaction in the Middle East. They have been sharply criticized even by members of the Fatah Central committee. For instance, Central Committee member Abu Iyad said in an interview to the West German journal SPIEGEL that Mubarak's proposal for talks between a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the U.S., to be subsequently joined by Israel, was tantamount to capitulation to the Americans and Israelis. "What Mubarak proposed is bad news for us," ABC Iyad said. Khalil al-Wazir another Fatah Central Committee member, is of the opinion that Egypt's new initiatives are nothing but a continuation of the process that began with the signing in 1978 of the Camp David agreements between Egypt and Israel.

The Arab national patriotic forces are at one in opposing the Egyptian president's proposals. Nayif Hawatimah, general secretary of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has characterized the "Mubarak initiative" thus: "Calls for direct separate talks between Israel and a Jordanian-Palestine delegation under U.S.-Egyptian patronage are particularly dangerous. By means of this new deal behind the backs of the Arab peoples, U.S. imperialism, Zionism and the reaction in general want to get the Camp David compact off the ground, to give effect to its second phase involving the granting to the Palestinian Arabs of a truncated administrative autonomy as a substitute for their lawful national rights." The Aden 14 UKTUBAR writes that the latest Egyptian proposals assign the international conference on the Middle East the role of "formal registrar" that would simply rubberstamp decisions suitable to the U.S. and Israel.

The above-mentioned article by Khuri concluded with criticism of the previous Egyptian president. "By exchanging the international conference for the Camp David deal, Al-Sadat torpedoed the just peaceable settlement of the Middle East problem," Khuri writes. Had Al-Sadat not gone to Jerusalem and concluded a separate treaty with Israel, there would have been no war in Lebanon and the Israeli occupation might already have been ended. As if echoing the Arab journalist, the ZO HADEREKH, organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel, writes: "All who want genuine peace in our region should remember this lesson of the past: the Camp David agreement led to the war in Lebanon, a war that is still going on. Realization of the 'Mubarak initiative' will lead to similar results, inasmuch as its purpose, as before, is to prevent the solution of the problem that lies at the root of the Israeli-Arab conflict -- the problem of the national rights of the Palestinian people."

In face of the new threat to their vital interests, all true Palesntinian patriots call for the unity of the PLO on a patriotic, anti-imperialist, anti-Zionist basis, on the basis of repudiation of Camp David, the Reagan plan and the conciliatory variants of a Middle East settlement deriving from it. They hold that the understandings on an intra-Palestinian settlement reached in Algiers and Aden in the summer of 1984 should serve as the organizational basis for the restoration of the unity of all detachments of the Palestine resistance and the PLO. The political platform for this should be the principles set forth in the Soviet programme for peace in the Middle East, the basic provisions of which coincide with the all-Arab position worked out at the Fes summit.

All anti-imperialist Arab quarters are convinced that unity of the PLO and its close co-operation with Syria, the Lebanese Patriotic Resistance Front and all other Arab national patriotic forces is of particular importance now that the U.S. Administration is seeking to revive capitulationist policies in the Arab world with a view to establishing a pax Americana in the Middle East.

OIL EXPLORATION COOPERATION WITH SYRIA REPORTED

LD281226 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 27 Mar 85

[Text] Economic links are evolving successfully between the Soviet Union and many developing countries. Our country helps them develop their national economy. An oil industry is being set up in the Syrian Arab Repubic with the technical assistance of the Soviet Union. Here is what our correspondent Kazbek Basiyev says:

For almost 20 years now, Soviet and Syrian specialists have been developing now to put oil and gas deposits in the northeast of Syria, near Al-Kasakah and Rumaylan, into industrial use. Prospected supplied of black gold in the country are not extremely large, but annual extraction figures of 10 million metric tons have turned the Syrian oil industry into a highly promising branch of the national economy. At present, oil constitutes around 70 percent of the overall volume of the country's exports and is the main source of revenue for Syria.

Bashir Qabbani, director of the oil board at Al-Hasakah deposit, talks about prospects for developing oil extraction in the Syrian Arab Republic.

[Begin Qabbani recording in Arabic with superimposed Russian translation] Our deposits are the largest in the Republic, both for oil extraction-- 93 percent of the overall figure -- and for the volume of prospecting work being carried out here. It is very promising. Recently, industrial supplies of oil were also discovered near Dayr al-Zawr and Jabisah, which is 100 km to the south.

It should be said that the increase in oil extraction and prospecting for new deposits is the great feat of our Soviet colleagues, who not only help us to develop this important branch of the economy, but also pass on their great experience and knowledge to Syrian specialists.

I am confident that our cooperation will continue to be fruitful and will make a contribution to strengthening and extending friendly relations between the Syrian and Soviet peoples. [end recording]

FURTHER TASS REPORTAGE ON IRAN-IRAQ WAR

Peaceful Settlement Urged

LD281847 Moscow TASS in English 1811 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Nicosia March 28 TASS -- According to a bulletin of the Iraqi main military command, today Iraq fighter-bombers attacked and hit a "big naval target" in the area of Iran's Khark Island in the Persian Gulf. The Iraqi aviation struck at several Iranian cities, including Tehran, as well as military bases in Bana and Marivan. At the same time Iraqi Air Force planes flew 80 sorties in the sector to the east of the Tigris, bombing Iranian military targets on the frontline and in the rear. The enemy suffered losses in manpower and materiel. In the area to the east of Basra, in the Maysan sector, in the northern and central sectors of the front Iraqi artillery destroyed military launches, shelters, ammunition storages and disrupted the main communications.

A regular communique of Iran's IRNA agency says that Iraqi air raids caused damage and loss of life in the capital and other Iranian cities. Iranian long-range artillery shelled Basra, Mandali and some other towns and populated localities in Iraq. According to the agency there were artillery duels and battles of local significance at various sectors of the front.

As is known, the Soviet Union has repeatedly come out for a peaceful settlement of this conflict which is not doing any of the sides any good and is only strengthening imperialism's positions in the region.

U.S., Israel Said Benefiting

LD281649 Moscow TASS in English 1535 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Moscow March 28 TASS -- TASS political commentator Boris Shabayev writes:

No matter how contradicatory the reports on fighting on the Iranian-Iraqi front are, it is beyond doubt that the conflict has entered the phase of a new dangerous escalation. The Moloch of war is especially gluttonous these days: military bulletins from both sides speak of tens of thousands of killed. In violation of the agreement of June 1984 air, missile and artillery strikes against cities have been resumed, including Tehran and Baghdad, claiming hundreds of civilians every day. According to the press, total war losses are approaching half a million. The material losses of the belligerents are immense.

This fratricidal war is in its fifth year and all this time the world public keeps asking itself with alarm and perplexion: Who needs it? For foreign military specialists are virtually unanimous in their belief that neither side is capable of scoring a military victory. Many countries and international organisations are making a big effort to put an end to the conflict between the two neighbouring countries which are senselessly squandering their far from inexhaustible resources on mutual destruction instead of directing them at urgent tasks of development.

But it is not by far the entire world community that keeps to this position. There are forces, to quote the French newspaper LE MONDE, that are "dreaming that this situation would continue for as long as possible". And facts show that these forces not only engage in dreams but actively add fat to the fire, although in words they are for an end to the war.

It is exactly such a policy that is pursued by the United States for which the Iranian-Iraqi conflict is a godsend. Under its cover Washington builds up its military presence in the Persian Gulf area, creates a network of military bases here (there are already thirty of them) and by whipping up a provocative propaganda campaign of intimidation tries to attach the Arab countries in the zone of the Gulf to its military chariot, to turn them into a permanent bridgehead for the stationing of the notorious "Rapid Deployment Force" and military hardware.

Israel, the closest ally of the United States in the region, directly stands to gain from this senseless war. The conflict between Iran and Iraq is one of the obstacles to pooling the efforts of Arab countries with the aim of liquidating the aftermaths of the Israeli expansion and achieving a just solution of the Palestinian problem on the basis of recognition of the inalienable right of Palestinaians to self-determination and the creation of their own independent state.

Proceeding from the fact that the fratricidal war between Iran and Iraq only weakens the anti-imperialist forces in the region, dooms the peoples of the embattled countries to senseless sacrifices and suffering while benefiting first of all American imperialism and its Israeli ally, the Soviet Union adhering to the position of non-interference invariably comes out for the speediest ending of the conflict and the solution of all outstanding issues by political means, by way of talks. This principled and consistent position is highly appreciated by all who treasure the cause of peace and progress in the Persian Gulf area.

COMPARISON OF PONOMAREV-JUNBLATT MEETING

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 29 March in its First Edition on page 4 carries a TASS report on the meeting between Boris Ponomarev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and CPSU Central Committee secretary, and Walid Junblatt, Lebanon's minister of public works, transport, and tourism and chairman of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party. The PRAVDA report, entitled "Meeting in the CPSU Central Committee," has been compared with the Moscow TASS International Service report published in the 28 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page H 1, revealing the following variations:

only paragraph, lines one and two, PRAVDA reads: ...CPSU Central Committee 27 March between Boris Ponomarev...(substituting "27 March" for "Wednesday")

only paragraph, from last line, PRAVDA reads... independent sovereign state.

K.N. Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department, also took part in the conversation. (supplying additional paragraph)

SOMALIA, ISRAEL REPORTEDLY SIGN MILITARY PACT

LD281334 Moscow TASS in English 1408 GMT 27 Mar 85

[Text] Luanda March 27 TASS -- In violation of the resolutions of the Organisation of African Unity and the League of Arab States demanding an end to ties between the African states and Israel the Mogadishu regime is establishing close contacts with the Zionists.

According to a report of the Angolan news agency ANGOP, an agreement has been secretly signed in Tel Aviv on cooperation between the two regimes in the military field. Within the framework of that deal concluded during the recent visit to Israel of a delegation led by General Abdurrahman Abdi Hussein, Somali secret police chief, the Zionists are to supply Mogadishu with modern military equipment and weapons. In addition Israeli military instructors will train Somali soldiers in "combat methods" practiced in the course of the aggressions against the Arab states, and train them in acts of subversion, terrorism and espionage.

This deal has been exposed by the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia, which urged the member-countries of the Organisation of African Unity and the Leage of Arab States to break off relations with the Siad Barre regime and demanded that Somalia be expelled from these organisations. The statement by the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia stresses that Mogadishu and Tel Aviv drew closer with the blessing of the racist Republic of South Africa, with which the Somali regime established close contacts. The Mogadishu authorities have allowed the racist naval ships to call at the ports of Berbera and Kisimayo, which are already used as bases for the United States interventionist Rapid Deployment Force.

The stepped up cooperation of the Mogadishu regime with Zionist Israel and the racist Republic of South Africa, the document stresses, is a serious threat to the security of the African and Middle East countries and is directed at increasing interference in the internal affairs of sovereign Arab and African states.

FIDEL CASTRO CITED ON LATIN AMERICAN DEBT

LD281422 Moscow TASS in English 0841 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Havana March 28 TASS -- PRENSA LATINA NEWS AGENCY reports: Paying off Latin America's foreign debt is an economic, political and moral impossibility, said Cuban president, Fidel Castro.

The Latin American debt is unpayable, has to be cancelled and the creditor nations can and should assume it, and use 10 to 12 per cent of their military expenses for guaranteeing it to their banks, said the Cuban leader in an exclusive interview with the influential Mexican daily EXCELSIOR.

It would be unjustified, Fidel Castro stated, to demand this immense sacrifice from the peoples and even the blood that would have to be shed to pay this huge sum of money that was drained from their countries, squandered or misappropriated.

The Cuban leader suggested that through promissary notes and treasury bonds, the United States could guarantee the amount of the credits that the banks have loaned to Latin America and the rest of the world.

Such a solution would not affect the contribution to the budget of U.S. citizens, the banks will recover the capital invested, exporting firms will increase their sales and investors their profits, he added.

Commander Fidel Castro warned that Latin America's social, economic and political situation is such that it will not resist new adjustments and he noted that the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) measures have caused serious social and political conflicts in countries such as the Dominican Republic, Panama and Bolivia.

He said the present crisis is worse than that of the 1930's, for the population has tripled, the buying power of export goods has lessened by three or four times and the debt that was then non-existent has reached to 360,000 million dollars.

It is impossible in the present circumstances, he said, to demand of Latin America, whose economy is in recession, that it takes out 40,000 million dollars annually from its budget and at the same time, reduce inflation and adjust its budgets.

After distributing by country the 360,000 million dollars of Latin America's debt and pointing out the amount of exports that each one is dedicating to paying interest -- from 20 to 57 per cent -- Fidel Castro categorically stated that it is impossible for any country to develop under those conditions.

As an example he noted that the positive balance that some nations, such as Brazil, Argentine and Mexico registered, by sacrificing their reserves of raw materials, lowering imports and raising sales, barely served to pay just the interest on the foreign debt.

He suggested that if the countries of Latin America and the rest of the Third World would take a firm united stand, they have the first real opportunity of reaching their goals, beginning with the solution of the debt crisis.

The struggle for a demand as rational as the solution to the foreign debt problem and just economic relations between Third World and industrialised countries, is so essential to the people's survival and future that it would have the backing of all social levels in Latin America and the Third World, he added.

The economic crisis and the debt, Fidel Castro warned, "is what is going to unite Latin American countries more than the war in the Malvinas Islands, for while solidarity with Argentina united us because of a political, moral and sentimental relation, solution of the crisis and the debt is a question of Latin America's survival. "I have no doubt", the Cuban leader indicated, "that the ideal and most constructive thing would be for these problems to be resolved through political dialogue and negotiations".

He warned of the danger of one group of countries, dragged down by desperate situations, being obliged to take unilateral measures: But if that occurs, he added, all the countries of Latin America and the Third World will join that group.

Fidel Castro also noted that if the economic problems are not resolved, democratic progresses will inevitably enter into crisis and he pointed out that at present, "our countries' independence is more important than social changes in themselves".

CUBA'S RAUL CASTRO, DELEGATION TOUR USSR

Visit Tajik SSR

PA281418 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Mar 85

[Text] Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee, has ended a friendly, 4-day visit to Tajik SSR. During his stay Castro visited several places of economic, cultural, and historic interest in the republic, located in southern Soviet Central Asia. The Cuban leader was accompanied by Vilma Espin, alternate member of the Cuban Communist Party Political Bureau, and Lionel Soto, member of the Communist Party Secretariat and Cuban ambassador to the USSR. In Moscow Castro attended the funeral of Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko and later met with Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU.

Visit Volgograd

FL271902 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Mar 85

[Text] The second secretary of our party, Raul Castro Ruz, has paid homage to the heroes of the Battle of Stalingrad in a brief visit to the Soviet city of Volgograd. Army General Raul Castro arrived in Volgograd from Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, accompanied by Vilma Espin, alternate member of the Politburo and Lionel Soto, member of the PCC Secretariat and Cuban ambassador to the USSR. An honor guard paraded before the Cuban delegation in the main square in Volgograd, and the Cuban delegation greeted all the secretaries of the provincial committee and district leaders of the CPSU in that heroic city.

SOVIET, CUBAN JOURNALISTS SIGN AGREEMENT

PM281149 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Mar 85 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report under general heading "Official Reports"]

[Text] An agreement was signed in Moscow on cooperation between the USSR Journalists' Union and the Cuban Journalists' Union for 1985-1989. The agreement is aimed at further deepening the creative ties between the two countries' journalistic organizations. In particular, it provides for the coordination of the activity of USSR and Cuban journalists with a view to further strengthening the international democratic journalistic movement, preserving peace, and averting the thermonuclear threat.

ISRAEL SAID SUPPLYING ARMS TO NICARAGUAN REBELS

LD281419 Moscow TASS in English 0947 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Managua March 28 TASS -- During the fighting against counter-revolutionary forces in northern Nicaragua Sandinista forces seized large amounts of automatic weapons supplied to Somocista thugs by Israel.

Tel Aviv, said a spokesman for the Ministry of Defense of Nicaragua, has long been supplying weapons to those dictatorial regimes of Central America a close military alliance with which the United States does not want to advertise for tactical reasons. The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency has organized arms supplies to Nicaraguan counter-revolutionary forces through Israel without waiting for the U.S. Congress to allocate 14 million dollars in funds for terrorist operations of Somocista outcasts.

The Reagan administration is also trying to draw other countries situated thousands of kilometers from the Central American region, into the dirty war on Nicaragua. Washington, the NEUVA NICARAGUA NEWS AGENCY reports, plans to ask certain Asian countries to supply weapons and money to counter-revolutionary forces fighting to topple the Nicaraguan Government". [quotation marks as received]

The U.S. President, the agency writes, decided to find new channels, in Asia, too, for organizing stable arms supplies to Somocista bands, fearing that the U.S. Congress may decline the administration's request for 14 million dollars to fund the counter-revolution.

Besides, the bandits get sizeable sums of money from different U.S. private organizations that are payrolled by the CIA.

Judging from the statement of the Defense Ministry spokesman, counter-revolutionary groupings operating in northern Nicaragua have military equipment manufactured in some NATO countries.

According to reports from Tegucigalpa, about 40 per cent of weapons currently used during joint U.S.-Honduran exercises are to be transferred to Honduras-based Somocista bands after the exercises draw to a close.

CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE POLITBURO MEETS 28 MAR

LD281915 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] At its latest meeting, the CPSU Central Committee Politburo examined a program for technical reequipment and reconstruction of the USSR Ministry of Power and Electrification thermal power stations for 1986-90. The implementation of this program will have important social and economic significance. It will make it possible to raise the reliability of power supply for the national economy and the population of towns and workers' settlements, to use fuel more economically, and to improve the conditions of work and life for power workers. A wide range of measures aimed at extending the working life of a number of power stations, replacing obsolete power sets, modernizing some power-generating equipment, and transforming some power stations into heating and steam boiler-houses without reducing the provision of heat for consumers is planned. Tasks for the production and supply of necessary equipment assemblies and spare parts were set.

In accordance with the main directions of the general education and vocational schools reform and the state program for the establishment, development of production, and efficient use of computer technology and automated systems, the Politburo defined measures for ensuring computer literacy for students of secondary educational establishments and for the extensive introduction of computer technology into the educational process. A decision on this issue adopted by the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers envisages the introduction of a course of fundamentals of computer science and computer technology in all secondary education establishments in the country in the new academic year, and the conducting of an extensive experiment in the utilization of computers in teaching school subjects. It is planned to set up teacher training courses in the teaching of this subject, to establish computer technology study classes at educational establishments, and to organize the curriculum and methodology back-up for the teaching process.

Computer technology will be widely used in extracurricular forms of work with pupils and students, in the organization of technical creativity and in the activities of clubs, pioneer centers, and palaces of culture. It was stressed that the comprehensive and in-depth mastery of computer technology by young people should become an important factor for the acceleration of scientific-technical progress in the country.

In connection with proposals arriving from working people at the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers, the Politburo gave instructions for the formulation of measures aimed at the further improvement of medical services and social security for citizens, as well as the development of collective horticulture and market gardening for manual, office and professional workers.

A report by Comrade Gorbachev on his meeting with Raul Castro, second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, was read and approved. It was stressed at the Politburo meeting that the exchange of views during their meeting reconfirmed the unity of views of our parties and countries on all questions of Soviet-Cuban relations and topical international problems that were discussed, and the invariable solidarity of the CPSU and the Soviet State with Socialist Cuba.

The Politburo considered and approved the results of Comrade Gorbachev's meeting and the conversations of the CPSU delegation headed by Boris Ponomarev with the Consultative Council for Disarmament of the Socialist International.

The friendly and constructive nature of the talks devoted to questions of vital importance to mankind in the struggle to stop the arms race and prevent it from spreading to outer space, to stop the buildup and deployment of nuclear arsenals and radically reduce them, to improve the international climate, and to develop fruitful cooperation between states was noted. The readiness of the CPSU to actively cooperate for the attainment of these aims with all peace-loving public forces, including parties belonging to the Socialist International, was confirmed.

The Politburo discussed the results of Comrades Tikhonov, Gromyko, and Ryzhkov's meetings with a delegation of the Socialist Republic of Romania headed by Dascalescu, prime minister of the Council of Ministers of Romania.

It was noted that the exchange of views and the Soviet-Romanian documents that were signed will promote a further development of relations between the two states, and the deepening of interaction by socialist countries within the framework of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and the Warsaw Treaty.

The results of the talks conducted by Comrade Tikhonov with Filipov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, were studied. Measures to expand and perfect Soviet-Bulgarian cooperation in various spheres were determined in the course of these talks, and ways of increasing the efficiency of this cooperation were outlined, this being in the interests of both fraternal countries and directed at the fulfillment of the collective decisions of the economic conference of CEMA countries at summit level.

Having heard Comrade Gromyko's report on the results of the talks with GDR Foreign Minister Fischer, the Politburo noted that these talks again demonstrated the unity of views of the two sides on all questions under discussion, their unanimous striving to strengthen the fraternal inviolable friendship between the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic.

Questions of further developing trade and economic ties between the USSR and the People's Republic of China were discussed. It was noted that increased trade between the two countries will be yet another step in the direction of improving relations between them.

A plan of measures to observe the United Nations Year, 1985, and the International Peace Year, 1986, in the USSR, was studied and approved. The overall thrust of these measures is to consistently build up efforts aimed at achieving an easing of international tension and of ending the arms race. The Soviet Union has always attached and attaches much importance to the United Nations Organization as an effective instrument of peace. It will continue its persistent struggle for the just, democratic principles on which the United Nations was founded 40 years ago, after the great victory over fascism, to become firmly consolidated in the practice of international relations.

Some other questions related to domestic issues and the pursuance of the USSR's peace-loving foreign policy course were also studied at the CPSU Central Committee Politburo meeting and decisions adopted on them.

PRAVDA ON IMPORTANCE OF PUBLICITY IN PARTY WORK

PM281530 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Mar 85 First Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Publicity in Work"]

[Text] The living creativity of the masses is a fundamental factor in the socialist society's consolidation and progress. Today, when Soviet people are solving complex and large-scale tasks of socioeconomic development, it is important to enhance even further people's conscious interest in the results of creative work and to imbue every working person with implacability toward everything that hinders our advance. This cannot be achieved without consistent observance of the principle of publicity.

The Extraordinary CPSU Central Committee March Plenum noted that publicity in the work of party, soviet, state, and public organizations must be further expanded. The Soviet state is strong by virtue of the consciousness of the masses. Our practice has fully confirmed this conclusion. The better informed people are, the more consciously they act and the more actively they support the party and its plans and program goals.

Publicity is a living reality of our daily practice, an inalienable aspect of socialist democracy, and a norm of social life as a whole. Extensive, prompt, and frank information is evidence of trust in people and of respect for their reason, feelings, and ability to anlayze particular events themselves. At the same time, more work must be done to ensure that full use is made of publicity's considerable potential for further improving the moral-political climate in our society.

Cadres constitute the key link of party policy. Extensive publicity is particularly important in their assessment, selection, and promotion. For example, in the last 2 years the method of open discussion and selection of cadres has been used in Krasnodar in the appointment of over 1,000 leaders, including 135 top leaders, 30 of their deputies, 276 middle-level personnel, and several hundred team leaders. This is by no means a purely formal procedure, as is shown, for instance, by the fact that 150 candidates were rejected in the process of collective public discussion. Sometimes, however, the question of the appointment of particular workers is still resolved within a narrow circles, without consideration of the opinion of their comrades who work alongside them. This results in errors, when incompetent and inadequately trained people are promoted to the post of leader. Party, soviet, and public organizations and labor collectives are called upon to make more active use of publicity as an important instrument of correct cadre policy.

Publicity is no less important when it comes to enhancing exactingness toward leaders and their responsibility for the work entrusted to them. PRAVDA recently published a letter from party veteran Yu. Zhigulev from Jursk, which raised with total frankness and principledness the question of the purity of party ranks and the impermissibility of attempts to cover up the misdeeds of some leaders and conceal the measures taken against them. Hundreds of letters arriving in the editorial office express support for the communist's statement. Readers and all Soviet people are unanimous in their opinion: We are in favor of publicity, of truthful and honest information about the measures that are taken, and of the strengthening of labor, state, and party discipline.

Publicity in the work of party and state organs is an effective means of combating all bureaucratic distortions. It imposes an obligation to approach thoughtfully the adoption of decisions, the organization of monitoring of their execution, and the correction of shortcomings and omissions.

It is also a reliable weapon in the struggle against unjustified plan "amendments," deception, window dressing, and embellishment of the real state of affairs. Publicity must always be in the arsenal of people's control and state control, and it must "work" more efficiently in all sectors of economic, social, and cultural building.

Vast significance is attached to the involvement of working people in the daily discussion and solution of questions of the work of our organs of people's rule, enterprises, construction sites, kolkhozes, and sovkhozes. It is necessary to ensure that people are well informed of how the soviets work and how the voters' instructions are being fulfilled. However, by no means all local organs of power provide regular information about their decisions. In particular, rayon plans and budgets are not always published and information on the work of soviet sessions and standing commissions is poorly organized. Reports by deputies to the voters and speeches by leading workers to production collectives and at people's place of residence must become a more common practice. Intraparty information needs to be further improved. It is, after all, no secret that Communists are sometimes better informed about the activity of top party organs than about the work of the primary party organization bureau or the raykom. This situation must be corrected.

The potential exists to expand publicity in labor collectives also. Here it must more actively serve the implementation of the principle of social justice. This applies, for example, to the allocation of apartments, travel vouchers, and various benefits. We must comprehensively support, encourage, and promote those who demonstrate in deeds their honest and conscientious attitude toward the performance of their public duty. On the other hand, we must ensure the application of legal sanctions to the negligent, idlers, slipshop workers, and drunkards. The public and principled condemnation in the collective of those who work in a slipshod manner or breach public order is a most important factor of education and a reliable way to enhance organization, responsibility, and discipline. It is the paramount duty of party organizations to create an atmosphere of implacability toward everything that runs counter to our socialist norms of life.

Our press, television, and radio are publicity instruments and most important channels for information about the work of the party, the state, and public organizations. Party committees are called upon to make more efficient use of the mass media to expand publicity, and also to react more promptly and in a more businesslike manner to their statements. Serious obligations are placed on our ideological cadres in this regard. After all, we must speak with Soviet man only in the language of truth, which brooks neither evasions, omissions, the avoidance of acute problems, nor the relishing of shortcomings.

V. I. Lenin described publicity as a sword that itself heals the wounds it inflicts. These words reveal better than anything else publicity's constructive role in our society. The further expansion of publicity in all our work is a guarantee of the development of the initiative and creativity of the masses and of the strengthening of the unity of party and people.

VOROTNIKOV ADDRESSES RSFSR AWARD CEREMONY

PM281032 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 26 Mar 85 First Edition p 1

[N. Demidov, Ye. Khokhlov report: "Award for Russian Working People"]

[Text] In the life of the RSFSR last year was marked by new achievements in the development of the economy, science, and culture.

The CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU, and the Komsomol Central Committee awarded a Challenge Red Banner to the RSFSR on the basis of the results of All-Union Socialist Competition in 1984. Moscow and Leningrad, 9 autonomous republics, 13 krays and oblasts, 56 cities, 117 rural rayons, and 782 enterprises, kolkhozes, and sovkhozes were also honored with this high award.

A ceremonial meeting of representatives of the working people of RSFSR oblasts, krays, and autonomous republics was held yesterday at the RSFSR Council of Ministers. The Challenge Red Banner was presented by A.K. Antonov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

A report was delivered by V.I. Vorotnikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers. Last year, he said, the plan for the production of industrial output was fulfilled ahead of schedule. Enterprises under republic jurisdiction alone sold R1.5 billion of output over and above the targets.

The workers of the RSFSR's agro-industrial complex worked persistently to implement the food program. Despite a severe drought in a number of areas of the republic, an increase in production was ensured, the plan for sales to the state of all types of livestock products was overfulfilled, and gross yields of sugar beets, potatoes, and vegetables increased.

All types of transportation and communications were further developed last year. A large program of capital construction was also implemented. Around 100 new state industrial enterprises were commissioned. The ahead-of-schedule completion of the laying of the main railroad and the opening of through train traffic along the entire Baykal-Amur-Mainline railroad was a great event in the life of the entire country.

The economic successes are the firm basis for the steady growth of working people's prosperity. In 1984 real per capita income increased 3 percent and the wages of workers and employees increased. The living conditions of 5.6 million people improved and health care, national education, and culture were further developed.

Comrade V.I. Vorotnikov dwelt in detail on the tasks facing the RSFSR's working people in the current year. The plan has set higher growth rates for the majority of the most important industrial and agricultural production indicators than have been achieved on average over the past years of the 5-year plan.

The most important avenue remains the further strengthening of the fuel and energy base and the fulfillment of the energy program.

Russia is doing a great deal to increase the output of consumer goods. At the same time enterprises need to reorganize themselves more rapidly to produce articles in line with changes in market conditions and to more actively introduce new technology and production organization.

The improvement of people's lives largely depends on the state of affairs in the agro-industrial complex.

More precise organization of the conduct of field work and efficient use of equipment and manpower resources are required here. Livestock wintering must be successfully completed.

Great attention was devoted in the report to improving affairs in capital construction, at transportation, communications, and trade enterprises, and in housing and municipal services and to the need to launch active work along the main avenues of production intensification and of increasing production efficiency was stressed.

This primarily applies to scientific and technical progress, saving material resources, and improving the management mechanism. It is necessary to focus scientific efforts on those areas of production that have priority in the national economy and where the maximum effect can be gained in the shortest time.

Autonomous republic councils of ministers and local soviet ispolkoms are called upon to strengthen state and plan discipline in every possible way, to bring the leaders of enterprises and organizations to account in a principled and strict way for shortcomings and failings, and to ensure the total fulfillment of targets within the allotted time. It is necessary to continue to turn to the inexhaustible source of initiative: the working people's creativity and creative energy.

Representatives of RSFSR labor collectives and party, soviet, and economic workers spoke at the meeting.

A letter to the CPSU Central Committee was enthusiastically adopted. On behalf of all Russia's working people the meeting participants gave an assurance that they would launch socialist competition even more extensively and greet the 40th anniversary of the great victory and the forthcoming 27th CPSU Congress with new successes.

CPSU Central Committee Secretaries I.V. Kapitonov and N.I. Ryzhkov and senior officials from the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, and RSFSR Council of Ministers took part in the work of the meeting.

FURTHER REPORTS ON RSFSR SUPREME SOVIET SESSION

Organizational Work Discussed

LD281758 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1330 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] The first session of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium of the 11th convocation was held today. The Presidium examined the results of elections to the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, the supreme soviets of the autonomous republics and local soviets of people's deputies of the Russian Federation and discussed the issue of organizational work in local soviets in 1984. A decision adopted by the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium stresses that the soviets of people's deputies should promote the acceleration of economic growth as much as possible, as well as an increase in production efficiency and discipline, while demonstrating continual concern to meet the population's needs.

It was proposed that the presidiums of the Supreme Soviets and Councils of Ministers of the autonomous republics, the krayispolkoms and oblispolkoms steadily improve organizational work, aiming to further develop competition to worthily greet the 27th CPSU Congress, the 40th anniversary of victory, and the successful fulfillment of the plans of the final year of the 11th 5-Year Plan.

The presidium approved a plan of fundamental measures mapped out for implementation in the RSFSR Supreme Soviet in April-December 1985. Certain other matters of the state life of the republic were also examined.

The session was conducted by Comrade Orlov, chairman of the Presidium of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet.

Report on Non-Chernozem Zone

LD281139 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1000 GMT 27 Mar 85

[Text] Moscow, 27 Mar (TASS) -- Among the country's key development problems, the party and state have defined the socioeconomic transformation of the Russian Non-Chernozem Zone as one of the major national economic tasks, Aleksandr Aleksankin, deputy chairman of the republic's Council of Ministers, declared from the platform at the RSFSR Supreme Soviet session, which is being held for the second day at the Kremlin.

Much work has been done in the 10 years that this complex program has been under way, the deputy emphasized. Over R60 billion has been spent, twice as much as during the equivalent preceding period. The material-technical base of all branches of the agro-industrial complex has been strengthened. Land improvement is the main step in transforming the Non-Chernozem Zone, the deputy said. It has already been carried out on 7.3 million hectares, or on every third hectare needing improvement.

The area of drained land has reached 3.3 million hectares, and that of irrigated land 800,000 hectares. Vegetable cultivation and a large proportion of feed production have been switched to improved land in the Non-Chernozem Zone, the deputy reported.

The deputy noted that the long-term land improvement program for the Russian Non-Chernozem Zone plans for doubled production of the chief types of crops on drained and irrigated land by 1990. It is planned to achieve gross vegetable harvests of 3 million tons and gross feed yields of 11 million tons. The sum of R6.7 billion is being spent on the whole complex of land improvement work.

Aleksandr Aleksankin said that work on channeling part of the waters of the northern rivers into the Volga basin will be developed. He reported that in the current 5-year plan, elaboration of land improvement schemes for RSFSR oblasts and autonomous republics has in the main been completed, as have those for individual major regions. Scientifically based technical policies for land improvement have also generally been worked out.

GRISHIN CHAIRS MAY DAY COMMISSION SESSION

PM281133 Moscow MOSKOVSAYA PRAVDA in Russian 23 Mar 85 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Greeting May Day"]

[Excerpt] A session of the commission for preparing for and celebrating May Day 1985 in Moscow was held yesterday under the chairmanship of V.V. Grishin, first secretary of the Moscow CPSU Gorkom.

UKRAINIAN CP CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM HELD

PM281701 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Mar 85 First Edition p 2

[Report by own correspondents O. Gusev, M. Odinets, and I. Tikhomirov: "From the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Plenum: Cadres Are the Main Link"]

[Text] Kiev -- A Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee plenum was held here yesterday.

It discussed progress in fulfilling the decisions of the 26th party congress on questions of cadre policy and the tasks of republic party organizations in further improving work with cadres. V.V. Shcherbitskiy, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, delivered a report.

"The Central Committee extraordinary plenum confirmed with great force our party's staunch loyalty to the cause of great Lenin and the consistency and continuity of its political course elaborated at the 26th CPSU Congress and the CPSU Central Committee November (1982) Plenum and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums. The main thing now is to explain to labor collectives in depth the fundamental programmatic guidelines of the March plenum, which have received the support of all the people, and to implement them in a businesslike and determined manner."

The tasks set require intense creative work from party organizations at all levels. Communists, as noted at the March Plenum, must set an example of civic duty and conscientious labor for the good of society and must establish a Leninist work style everywhere. This applies above all to party cadres and party and state leaders.

The republic's party organizations are improving the selection, placement, and training of cadres. This question has been frequently discussed in the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo and Secretariat since the 26th party congress. Reports by four party obkoms and the leaders of six republic ministries and departments have been heard. Very great significance is attached to strengthening the cadre reserve. In the first 4 years of the current 5-year plan alone the republic's VUZes sent around 600,000 graduates into the national economy and secondary specialized educational institutions likewise sent 939,000 of their students. There are now 6.2 million specialists, 2.6 million of whom have received higher education, working in the Ukraine, and almost 1 in 3 specialists is a full or candidate party member.

More than 3,000 graduates of the CPSU Central Committee Academy of Social Sciences and the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Higher Party School have gone to work in party committees and soviet, trade union, and Komsomol organs since the 26th CPSU Congress. All this has made it possible to raise the standard of the leadership of economic and social processes each year and to achieve marked successes in the national economy more quickly.

However, it was also said from the plenum rostrum that some cadres have proven to be insufficiently trained to deal with the qualitatively new tasks that must be solved in order to ensure further accelerated intensification of and increased efficiency in social production. Unmindful of the future, they continue to work with outmoded methods, with the result that many enterprises do not fully exploit their reserves, fail to meet their targets for saving resources, and also fail each year to meet some targets in the state plan for introducing new technology.

The plenum criticized the republic's Ministry of Power and Electrification and the Ministry of Light Industry in this regard. Many collectives, especially in the republic's Ministry of the Coal Industry, Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy, and Ministry of Timber, Pulp and Paper, and Wood Processing Industry and in Volyn, Kirovograd, Odessa, and Chernigov Oblasts failed last year to cope with their targets for increasing labor productivity.

The republic has done a considerable amount recently to tighten up control discipline. Nevertheless, a considerable number of enterprises, particularly in the systems of the Ukrainian SSR Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy, the Ministry of Fruit and Vegetable Industry, and the Ministry of Local Industry and in Voroshilovgrad, Donetsk, and Zaporozhye Oblasts are failing to meet their plans to supply products on time.

The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee and the republic Council of Ministers have already drawn the attention of the Ukrainian SSR Ministry of Timber, Pulp, and Paper, and Wood Processing Industry Collegium and Minister I. Grunyanskiy personally to the low standard of contract discipline. However, the ministry is not drawing the appropriate conclusions. Last year the amount of goods supplied to consumers under contract was R30 million below target, even though workers in the apparatus and enterprises are being paid generous bonuses. Only after the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee intervened were the culprits, who included Deputy Ministers P. Durdintsev and Ye. Kustovskiy, severly punished.

The practice of making unjustified plan amendments and adopting excessively low pledges has not yet been eradicated. More decisive measures must also be taken to extirpate the disgraceful phenomenon of overreporting. The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Secretariat's examination of the question of breaches committed in Zaporozhye, Poltava, and Khmelnitskiy Oblasts in commissioning housing and sociocultural facilities, as well as other cases of misrepresentation, shows that they become possible wherever leading workers lose a sense of responsibility and party committees show indulgence and lack of principle.

The ability of cadres to ensure absolute fulfillment of set tasks must be a very important criterion in assessing them, speakers said. It was noted in this regard that work in January-March has shown that the leaders in some ministries and departments and in a number of enterprises and organizations lack a businesslike approach, initiative, or the skill to organize work properly in a complex situation. Speakers pointed out that the work properly in a complex situation. Speakers pointed out that the work of enterprises in ferrous metallurgy and rail transport and the situation with regard to milk production and the fulfillment of the commodity circulation plan are causing particular concern. Production of pig iron, steel, and rolled metal has fallen, compared with last year, as a result of a number of shortcomings, including a lack of balance in the plan for raw materials and fuel, and this has led to the creation of a large backlog. The plenum severely reprimanded Ferrous Metallurgy Minister D. Galkin for the prevailing situation in his sector and demanded that he take decisive measures to ensure smooth working in the enterprises.

The CPSU Central Committee, it was said at the plenum, has drawn attention to the unsatisfactory progress a number of oblasts are making in wintering livestock. As a result, milk purchases in the republic in the current quarter have fallen. The reduction in Voroshilovgrad, Donetsk, Zaporozhye, and Kherson Oblasts amounts to 6-11 percent, and Vinnitsa, Ivano-Frankovsk, Ternopol, Khmelnitskiy, and Chernigov Oblasts, where there is an inadequate supply of feed, have also reduced their milk sales to the state. In many oblasts the amount of milk available for disposal is small, and milk purchases from the population are disorganized.

Checks carried out in Kherson Oblast, whose work was examined at the CPSU Central Committee Food Program Commission, as well as in Poltava, Donetsk, and Kharkov Oblasts, have shown that a considerable number of farms are using unprepared feed, including grain feed. The necessary everyday living conditions for stockraisers have not been created and appropriate concern is not being shown to improve trading, medical, and cultural services. Autonomous financing and the collective contract are being introduced into stockraising, especially the dairy sector, in a lax manner.

The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo, it was said at the plenum, considers that Party Obkom First Secretaries B. Goncharenko, A. Girenko, M. Vsevolozhskiy, A. Korniyenko, L. Krivoruchko, L. Palazhenko, and others must provide an explanation of what they are doing to order to make up the backlog as quickly as possible. The Crimea Party Obkom and its first secretary, V. Makarenko, were subjected to severe criticism for serious shortcomings in work with cadres.

The plenum demanded that deputy chairmen of the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers and secretaries and department chiefs of the Central Committee should look into the state of affairs more thoroughly, be more exacting toward cadres, and persistently seek to achieve efficient and effective work at every work place.

It was pointed out that the Central Committee Secretariat and Central Committee departments, party committees at local level, the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers Presidium, and ministry and department leaders must carefully analyze once again the composition of leading cadres and determine which sections need reinforcing and by whom and which people need help. Serious improvement is needed in organizing the training and use of specialists and ensuring the optimal proportion of specialists with higher or secondary education in the national economy.

Attaching enormous importance to the political education and ideological and moral tempering of cadres, the plenum participants voiced the pressing need for leaders at various levels to always regard the interests of the state and of all the people as paramount everywhere, to decisively put a stop to narrow departmentalism and local favoritism, and to combat all manifestations of ostentatiousness, verbosity, conceit, irresponsibility, and negligence.

Cases were cited indicating that embezzlement has become more frequent in the Ministry of Light Industry system. Appropriate order with regard to safeguarding socialist property has still not been instilled in a number of meat and dairy industry enterprises and in trade, consumer cooperative, and consumer services organizations. Cases have come to light of extortion and bribery in some medical establishments, as well as in a number of VUZes. The plenum demanded that ministry and department leaders O. Kasyanenko, V. Solomakhi, V. Slinchenko, V. Starunskiy, V. Litvinenko, A. Romanenko, and V. Parkhomenko take immediate measures to instill appropriate order in the organizations that come under them.

Paying tribute to the role of criticism and self-criticism in cadre training, the plenum participants demanded that the sternest party measures be taken against leaders whose wounded pride sometimes overrides their sense of party and professional duty and workers who, consumed by self-conceit, succumb to ambition and embellish the real state of affairs. Party committee plenums, party meetings, soviet sessions, and ministry and department collegium sittings are required to give great assistance here. Dissatisfaction was expressed with the standard of criticism to be found in a number of publications, including the oblast newspaper VILNA UKRAINA (Lvov), CHERVONIY PRAPOR (Rovno), and LENINSKI PRAVDA (Sumy).

The resolution adopted notes that the Communists and all working people in the republic, inspired by the decisions of the Extraordinary CPSU Central Committee March (1985) Plenum, will be making every effort to meet their high socialist pledges in order to greet in worthy fashion the 40th anniversary of the great victory and the 27th congress of our dear Communist Party.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE GREETS PRODUCTION ASSOCIATION

PM281030 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 26 Mar 85 p 1

[CPSU Central Committee message: "Congratulations on the Labor Victory!"]

[Text] To the workers, engineering and technical personnel, and employees at the Leningrad "Kirovskiy Zavod" Production Association:

Dear Comrades! The CPSU Central Committee cordially congratulates you on the significant event of the production of the 300,000th "Kirovets" tractor. Your labor victory is proof of the practical implementation of the party's course of ensuring uninterrupted growth in the power-worker ratio in agricultural production. This is your concrete contribution to the implementation of the country's food program.

A large production unit for powerful wheeled tractors has been created through the selfless labor of the association's workers, engineering and technical personnel, and employees in creative collaboration with collectives of partner enterprises and under the leadership of the Leningrad party organization.

The CPSU Central Committee notes with great satisfaction that the collective of the "Kirovskiy Zavod" Association, which has written many remarkable pages in the annals of the Soviet people's labor and combat glory, is today in the vanguard of the nationwide struggle to fulfill the decusions of the 26th CPSU Congress and strengthen the Soviet state's economic might.

We express the firm conviction that the association's working people and party, trade union, and Komsomol organizations, on the basis of the widely launched socialist competition to steadily increase production efficiency and to use material resources economically and thriftily, will ensure fulfillment of plan targets, worthily greet the 40th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War, and mark the next, 27th, CPSU Congress, with new labor achievements.

We wish you, dear comrades, new labor successes for the good of our motherland.

CPSU Central Committee

CORRECTION TO TURKMEN PARTY POST CHANGES

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Turkmen CP Central Committee Makes Party Changes", published in the 26 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page R 7, third paragraph, line two:

The plenum relieved Karliyeva of her commitments due to her transfer to another post. (rewording, correcting name)

CORRECTION TO REPORT ON RSFSR SUPREME SOVIET

The following correction pertains to the item subheaded "Information Report on Proceedings", published in the 28 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, pages R 10-12,:

Page R 11, last paragraph, line four should read: Deputy N.M. Gribachev, chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, read out... (deleting "presidium")

Page R 12, paragraph four, line five should read: Deputy N.M. Gribachev, chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, chaired the meeting. (deleting "presidium")

STABILITY OF STAPLE FOOD PRICES VIEWED

LD281406 Moscow TASS in English 1258 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Moscow March 28 TASS -- The column in Soviet statistic reports on meat and milk prices has remained unchanged for 23 years now. During this period the wages and salaries of workers, peasants and employees have been growing steadily and so have the real incomes of the population which rose last year, for instance, 3.3 per cent.

As Professor Vladimir Cheplanov, director of the Research Institute on Price Information, said in a TASS interview, the state spends much more money on buying, processing, storing and marketing staple foodstuffs than it gets from retail trade of these products. To compensate this difference the state allocates over 40 billion roubles in subsidies. Thanks to this measure, staple foodstuffs are accessible to all segments and groups of the population.

Western propaganda men like to stress that meat, milk and some other foodstuffs are produced in abundance in their countries while deliberately saying nothing about a steady rise of food prices. Statistics show that the retail prices of beef in the USA had doubled between 1970 and 1981. In all industrialized capitalist countries there had been a steady trend toward lower purchase prices and higher retail prices. Monopolies are thus making profits at the expense of farmers and buyers.

The growth of the cash incomes of the Soviet population accounts for a high demand for certain foodstuffs, meat included. This problem is being solved by the state boosting agricultural production which is steadily increasing. As a result meat sales to the population in 1983 went up 110 percent over in comparison with 1965. Last year they showed a further rise of 7 per cent. The Soviet Union ranks among the first in the world for satisfying the population's demand for milk.

Per capita meat production in 1983 was 60 kilograms in the USSR, which was as much as was produced in Britain and Italy. Per capita milk production was 354 litres, or more than in Britain, Italy or the USA.

In conclusion Professor Vladimir Cheplanov said that the strategic line of the Soviet state is to maintain stable retail prices for staple foodstuffs while increasing their output and cutting production costs.

BRIEFS

POWER-GENERATION UNIT COMMISSIONED -- The first power-generating unit of 800,000 kilowatts has been commissioned at the thermal power station now under construction in Surgot (West Siberia). As a TASS correspondent learned at the Ministry of Power Engineering and Electrification of the USSR, this unit will not only meet the power needs of the fast-developing oil and gas fields of Tyumen but will be connected with the unified power system of the USSR. At present long-distance power transmission lines of super-high voltage (1150 and 1500 volts) are being built in the Soviet Union. They enlarge the zone of operation of the power system considerably. As a result, the consumption of oil products by power stations will be sharply reduced and so will be the amount of rail-transported fuel. When completed, in five-seven years' time, the power system will cover the entire developed territory of the country. [Excerpts] [Moscow TASS in English 0952 GMT 12 Mar 85 LD]

EARLY SPRING WEATHER SETS OFF PLANT GROWTH

PM281025 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 24 Mar 85 p 1

[USSR Hydrometeorological Center report by Agrometeorologist N. Orlova: "Weather and Crops"]

[Text] Mild weather prevailed over the northern half of the European part of the USSR in the second 10-day period of March, the southern half was cold, and it then became milder everywhere. The mild weather helped to thaw and contract the snow cover. Its depth was reduced everywhere and snow disappeared from the fields in Kaliningrad Oblast, the western, southern, and southeastern oblasts of the Ukraine, the southern half of Rostov Oblast, the North Caucasus, the Kalmyk ASSR, and the south of Astrakhan Oblast. Snow cover on 20 March extended along a line through Kaliningrad, Brest, Rovno, Lvov, Ivano-Frankovsk and further along a line through Bolgrad, Nikolayev, Dnepropetrovsk, Voroshilovgrad, Volgograd, and Guryev.

Winter grain crops and perennial grasses were in a state of winter dormancy under quite deep snow cover (mostly 35-45 cm). Fruit crops were also in a state of winter dormancy. Spring biological processes resumed in fruit plants only in the extreme south of the Crimea, the south of Krasnodar Kray, on the Black Sea coast, in Georgia, and in the valleys of Azerbaijan, where the average air temperature in the 10-day period was above 5 degrees, with a maximum of 18 degrees, and 20-24 degrees in places. Apricot and peach buds are opening and, in places, blossoming there.

Mild weather for the time of year persisted in the farming regions of Siberia and the north of Kazakhstan. The average air temperature for the 10-day period was 2-4 degrees above or close to average. Winter grain crops in West Siberia were under 20-40 cm of snow cover and minimum soil temperature at tillering node depth remained within the range of minus 10 to minus 6 degrees. Conditions were favorable for completing the wintering of fall-sown crops.

Cold weather persisted for most of the 10-day period in the Central Asian republics, although it became considerably warmer in the second half. During daytime hours the air warmed up to 18-28 degrees. Blossoming of flower and leaf buds was recorded everywhere, and the first foliage appeared on stone fruit trees (sweet cherries and other cherries) in the south of Turkmenistan. Vine buds have begun to swell. Apricot and almond trees are flowering throughout Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and the valleys of Tajikistan. The vegetative stage of winter grain crops and perennial grasses has resumed.